THE TIMES 35P

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TOMORROW AND ALL NEXT WEEK

THE McALPINE DIARIES
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IN TOMORROW'S WEEKEND
Sandra Parsons meets Alistair McAlpine

Labour abandons confidence vote

Ulster deal to protect Major until May 1

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLLY NEWTON AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE Ulster Unionists threw John Major the lifeline that should keep him in power until May 1 yesterday after the Government agreed to increase the powers of the special parliamentary committee that monitors Northern Ireland.

The deal was announced by the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, who made clear that he saw no point in trying to force an early election. He added that his personal preference was for a late contest.

Labour cannot force the Government out of office without Unionist backing, so it abandoned thoughts of staging a Commons confidence vote next week, fearing that it would merely give the Government a chance to rally and regroup after yesterday's Wirral South by-election.

Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, said: "I am sorry we cannot go ahead. I would like to have gone ahead, but there is no point in putting down a motion without the Ulster Unionists."

Mr Trimble did not rule out voting against the Government when he announced the grand committee deal yesterday, but the tone of his remarks fitted in with his privately-held view that his party had nothing to gain by doing so. Senior Unionists believe that the next Government, of whatever hue, would distrust a minor party that was prepared to side with the Opposition on such a crucial vote.

Mr Trimble was dismissive of the prospects of an early election. "What is the point for a couple of weeks? If you have an early election, you would have Easter in the middle of the campaign. I can see arguments pro and con, possibly more con than pro. What is the point of them [Labour] putting a big effort in when all the difference is three weeks?" He was not even sure that Labour was in a position to get all its MPs to Westminster to a vote aimed at bringing down the Government.

And he added that for "selfish, personal reasons" he would prefer a May 1 poll, as he was hoping to spend St Patrick's Day in America.

Unionists were delighted that ministers had met many of their demands for new powers for a Northern Ireland Grand Committee in line with those in Wales and Scotland.

The powers, promised by Mr Major last October, were agreed after extensive consultation and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, has written to each of the party leaders in Northern Ireland setting out the details of the new-look committee. All Northern Ireland MPs and up to 24 other MPs will serve on the committee, which will be able to question ministers on Province spending commitments announced in the Budget, interrogate all ministers about Northern Ireland affairs, and stage some meetings in Northern Ireland as well as Westminster. It will also be able to consider uncontentious legislation affecting the Province.

However, nationalists have objected to such powers being conferred on the committee, seeing it as part of an integrationist agenda.

The Government's decision to beef up the committee came as ministers prepared to accede to Northern Ireland politicians' calls for the Stormont talks to be adjourned for the duration of the election campaign. The talks, which have failed to make any real progress since they opened last June, will be wound up next Wednesday until after the local government elections in Northern Ireland on May 21.

Mr Trimble said that other government moves — ranging from pressure on Brussels to lift the beef ban on specified BSE-free herds, to bringing the Province in line with the rest of the country on "de-rating" village shops — were also important developments.

However, he denied that the Unionist votes had effectively been "bought" by the Government. "I don't see these positive things as buying us. I regard them as things that ought to have happened anyway."

Jury trial curbs

Michael Howard has proposed curbs on the right to trial by jury and other substantial changes to the criminal justice system. Thousands of offenders, including burglars and some sex offenders, would be likely to receive lighter sentences

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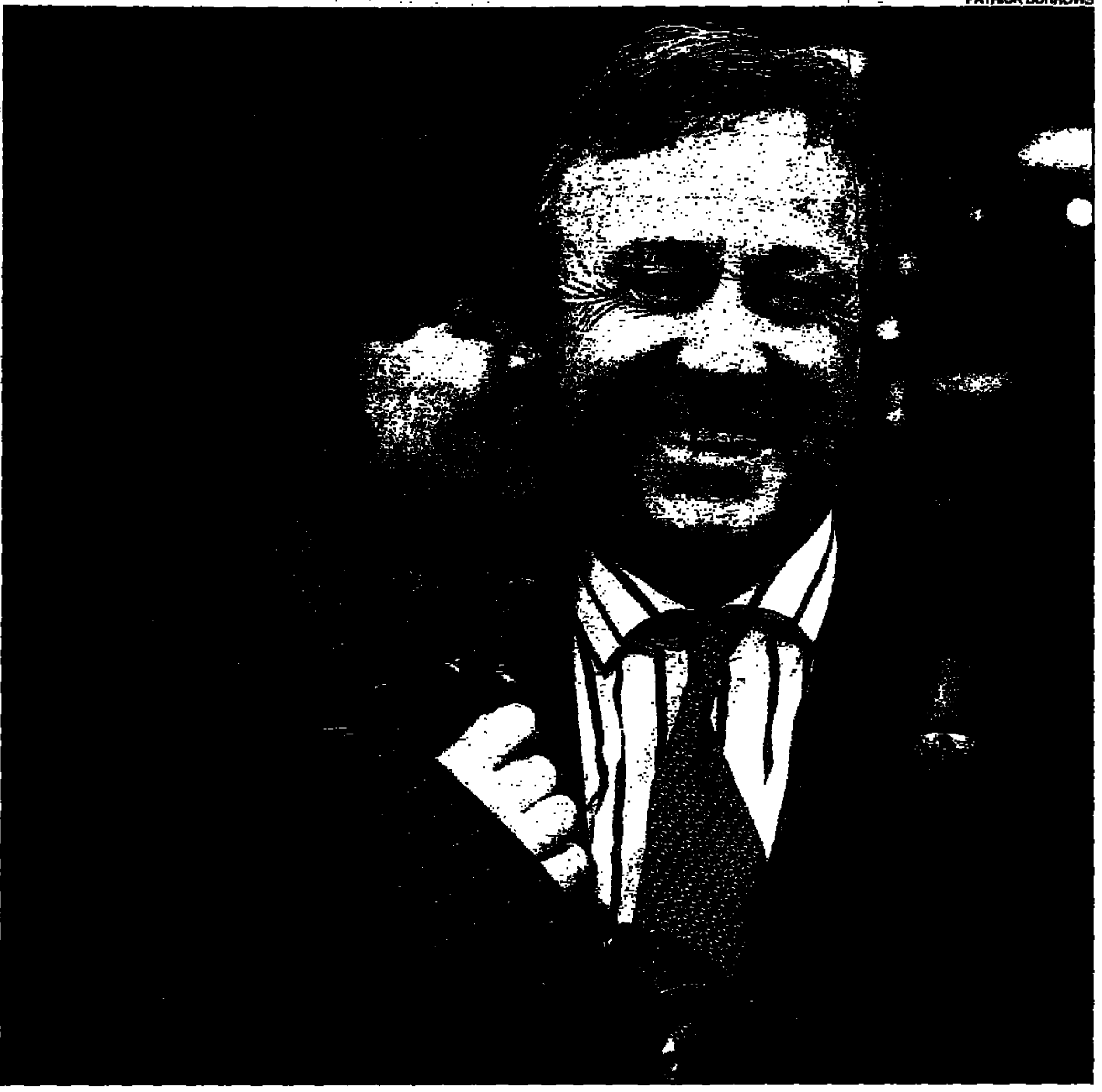
PATRICK BURROWS



Support for Ben Chapman, the Wirral South Labour candidate, from his daughter Bridget, during yesterday's by-election

Tebbit lambasts 'tacky' Heseltine

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

MICHAEL HESELTINE has been accused by his former Cabinet colleague Lord Tebbit of conduct that is 'tasteless, tacky if not dishonourable, and self-centered beyond even the call of his profession".

In a withering attack on the Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Tebbit, once Tory party chairman, cites as an example the way Mr Heseltine tried to avoid National Service. He writes in a review of a new Heseltine biography: "It is hard totally to condemn anyone knowing that National Service was coming to an end for seeking to escape completely. Having tried and failed to do that, to go on to escape from the Army by standing for Parliament in a hopelessly safe Labour seat is a more dubious, but still forgivable, ploy.

"But it jars the nerves that after just 61 days' service as a second lieutenant Heseltine wears his Guards tie as though he had served his regiment, not legally deserted it."

Mr Heseltine began his National Service in January 1959, when 25. A month after arriving, he was selected as Conservative candidate for the safe Labour seat of Gower in South Wales. In September 1959, when the election was called, he was allowed to resign from the Army under rules which prevented parliamentary candidates from remaining in military service.

He had completed a third of the expected period of National Service and spent 61 days with the Welsh Guards. Three years later the rules were changed after a rash of applications by servicemen to stand for Parliament.

Lord Tebbit says in a review in *The Spectator* of Michael Crick's biography, *Michael*

Continued on page 2, col 4

Law comes into play as judge overrules rugby ban

BY FRANCES GIBB AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

A RUGBY union star who challenged his suspension from the game yesterday won a High Court ruling that opens the way to similar actions against sporting bodies whose decisions affect players' livelihoods.

Mark Jones, a Welsh player who was sent off for fighting during a game against Swansea, won a ruling that he should not be suspended for four weeks pending his appeal.

In a decision which lawyers said marked the new professional climate of the game, Mrs Justice Ebsworth granted an injunction allowing Jones back on the field until an appeal over a disciplinary committee's decision is heard.

Jones, Ebbw Vale's No 8, said that his four-week suspension by the Welsh Rugby Union's disciplinary committee was unfair because he did not have a sufficient chance to put his side of the case.

The player is paid £29,000 a year, can earn bonuses of £10,000 for winning key games, and was "a vital member of the side". He can now continue playing until an appeal is completed, whether by an internal hearing or — if that fails — at a full High Court trial.

Mrs Justice Ebsworth said that sporting decisions had for years been made from "wet and windy" touchlines. But the new professional game meant that those decisions now affected "many people who earn a living".

She said it was "naive" to contend — as it had been until recently — that the decisions of disciplinary committees could not be challenged, because the sanctions imposed now had "economic results" on those affected. The judge said that the lawyer representing Jones

Continued on page 2, col 5

Santer joins the cloning debate

The President of the European Commission has asked his officials to investigate whether there was a need for joint action by EU states to regulate genetics in the light of the successful cloning of a sheep carried out by British scientists. Jacques Santer has asked experts to produce a report on the ethical questions that arose

Page 2

Sacked Clinton aide spills beans

The disclosures about President Clinton's eagerness to reward big campaign contributors with overnight stays in the Lincoln bedroom and other White House perks came from Harold Ickes, the President's former deputy chief of staff, who was dismissed last year

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The Queen goes into cyberspace

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE QUEEN, who prides herself on being a thoroughly modern monarch, is about to make one of the great technological leaps of her reign by having her own web site on the Internet.

From next Thursday, 35 million computer users around the world who are plugged into the global information network will be able to access 150 pages of royal facts, from the monarch's date of birth to the opening times of Buckingham Palace.

A Palace spokeswoman said yesterday: "We don't sit here with quill pens, you know; we are already highly computerised. The Internet can play a very important part in our public information role." The site's address is being kept secret until the Queen inaugurates the service next week at Kingsbury School, Brent, north London.

Callers at the site will be able to find copious notes on royal history, finances, biographies of current family members and much more.

But there will be no items of gossip or personal information, such as whether the Queen's new television racing service has brought her more winners or where the Duchess of York will be taking her next foreign holiday.

"I declare this web site open — whoops"

Diane Blood wins right to have dead husband's baby

BY EMMA WILKINS

DIANE BLOOD was celebrating with champagne yesterday after winning the right to take her late husband's sperm abroad for fertility treatment.

Mrs Blood, who had been fighting for the right to bear her husband Stephen's child for two years, said she was relieved, elated and jubilant.

Her celebrations came after the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which last year banned her from treatment in Britain and abroad, decided to make an exception in her case. The Authority ruled that Mrs Blood may export Stephen's sperm provided she attends a fertility clinic in Brussels for treatment.

Mrs Blood, 30, said: "It's wonderful news and I still can't quite believe it. I'm sure Stephen would be very proud and happy."

The legal battle, which took Mrs Blood to the High Court in London and The Court of Appeal, had been arduous but worthwhile, she said.

Mrs Blood's campaign began two years ago when Stephen contracted bacterial meningitis and fell into a coma in February 1995. He died before he could sign a consent form vital under HFEA rules regulating fertility treatment.

The Court of Appeal ruled three weeks ago that the Authority was wrong not to take proper account of European law, which gives every European citizen the right to receive medical services in another member state unless there are overriding public policy reasons against it.

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, sitting with two other Appeal Court judges, referred Mrs Blood's case back to the Authority for reconsideration.

However, Mrs Blood's troubles are not over yet. The Belgian clinic where it is understood she hopes to use her husband's sperm to conceive could still turn down her request.

Dr Paul De Vroey, clinical director of the Centre for Reproductive Medicine at the Brussels Free University, said yesterday that if a request was received from Ms Blood, she would be interviewed and would receive counselling. Her treatment would then be considered by the clinical and the ethics committee.

Photograph, page 22

Israeli President a boy with a new toy on RAF visit

BY ALAN HAMILTON

EVEN if you are a 72-year-old head of state, once bitten by the flying bug, you cannot leave planes alone, and especially if you helped to found and once commanded your country's air force.

President Weizman of Israel joined the RAF in Egypt in 1942. Yesterday he returned to RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire as a guest which, without intending any slight to the Queen's hospitality, he described as the pinnacle of his three-day visit to Britain.

When he squeezed into the cockpit of a Red Arrows Hawk trainer, his smile was that of a boy with a new toy as Squadron Leader Simon Meade described the controls — rather more complex than those of the Spitfires he flew in wartime India. He still occasionally flies a helicopter. "It may not be an F16, but to fly low at 130mph is a thrill for an old-timer," he said.

Asked what he thought of the present-day RAF, Mr Weizman said: "I saw the performances in the Gulf: they are excellent. It is a problem for both the RAF and the Israeli Air Force — how to be small but very good."

There are, however, important differences. The RAF now has women flying combat aircraft, and last year selected six more for pilot training. During his command of the Israeli Air Force, Mr Weizman resisted every pressure to put women in the cockpit. Last year, for the first time, the Israelis accepted six for pilot training. All of them failed.

Clearly, for Mr Weizman, flying is a man's occupation. During his visit to Cranwell yesterday he reminisced with senior officers about his RAF days, but he did not mention that, when courting Reuma, his London-born wife, he supposedly flew his Spitfire over her tennis court and bombarded it with red roses.

Dogfight renewed, page 3

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هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Mr Ashdown winks and everything falls into place again

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Is Michael Brown (C. Brigg & Cleethorpes) losing his bottle? Once in tune with the splendidly robust mood of today's Tory party, Mr Brown has gone all wishy-washy and sentimental. Hard-nosed Home Secretary Michael Howard heard Brown complain to the PM yesterday about "stowaways, who have been arriving, unfortunately, dead, in small ships, at Felixstowe". They had travelled "in dreadful conditions. Though they *are* illegal *immigrants* they are arriving, as I say, dead, and something ought to be done about it."

"Unfortunately" dead, Mr Brown? Illegal immigrants *unfortunately* dead? Get a grip on yourself, man. Have a drink with Michael Howard. He'll sort you out.

To miss the key to Prime Minister's Questions yesterday was to miss all: like someone with a coded message but no code. And if your attention had slipped, you would have missed it. It lasted half a second ...

To that key in a moment. First let us set the scene. The Opposition were indignant about Gulf War syndrome, the alleged ministry cover-up, and medical provision for British troops. Neil Gerrard (Lab, Walthamstow) was first. Why were Tory ministers refusing to take personal responsibility for mistakes over organophosphates? People had died. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was (was he not?) "without honour". Opposition backbenchers howled their agreement. Strong stuff. Tony Blair opened up a second front of moral outrage. A Defence Select Committee report had judged medical provision for our troops cruelly deficient, said the Labour leader. "Which minister will take responsibility?" How could the Prime Minister delay comment or action on this? When would we have his response? Opposition backbenchers shouted: "Answer! Answer!"

Paddy Ashdown returned to the original charge. How dare Mr Major call the Gulf War syndrome "an ailment"? Did he not realise that this was a terrible illness? At his best (as he was yesterday) the Liberal Democrat leader is most effective at communicating a certain terse conviction. His voice rings with authority and sincerity. He knows. He cares. Liberal Democrats led the opposition benches in a further cheer of support and anger.

Through all this, John Major seemed unsettled and cross. Perhaps he had early intimations of a bad result from the Wirral by-election; perhaps he felt defensive or concerned about organophosphates. Whatever it was, Mr Major was not having a good afternoon. By contrast, Mr Ashdown now reinforced an impression, conveyed equally by Mr *Blair* and *his* backbenchers, of principled outrage. Eyes blazing he sat down. The cameras moved off him.

Then he winked. I missed it; but two colleagues and a friend in the Gallery report the same. Paddy Ashdown winked towards Labour's Chief Whip, Donald Dewar.

A wink can say all manner of things. It can say "Gotcha — that skewered him". It can say "nice pincer move by your man and me, eh?" It can say "that was for the cameras, *mate*". Nod-nod, wink-wink.

Which if any of these things Mr Ashdown's wink was meant to imply, or to whom, we cannot know but of this we can be sure: that if you do not catch the wink in Commons life, you will never really understand the British Parliament. The whole chamber winks. The Mace winks. Every stone, every policeman, every bewigged clerk and carved gargoyle, every portrait of bygone statesmen, winks, here at Westminster.

Santer orders EU investigation into ethics of cloning

By Nigel Hawkes and Charles Bremner

JACQUES SANTER, president of the European Commission, joined the debate over Dolly, the cloned sheep, yesterday. He asked EC officials to investigate whether there was a need for joint action by the 15 EU states to regulate genetics and asked the Commission's biotechnology advisory group of independent experts to produce a report on the "fundamental ethical questions".

Commission officials said an EU ban already existed on the cloning of humans, but until now Brussels has not tried to regulate other forms of genetic manipulation, and is not even certain it has the authority to do so.

Mr Santer said: "The Commission will be examining the whole question in the light of the results of these initiatives, to see if the Commission has any specific competence in this area."

His intervention followed a plea from MEPs on the European Parliament's environment, public health and consumer protection committee. Committee chairman Ken Collins (Strathclyde East) said: "Cloning breaks new ground, a fact which may deeply disturb and frighten many people. To answer these fears we need to ensure that the benefits of genetic manipulation technology are not lost in a tidal wave of abuse." In London at its first meeting, a new government advisory body, the Human Genetics Advisory Commission, discussed whether the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, which bans human cloning, is sufficiently explicit. The law was written before the new technique used to create Dolly had been devised.

Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham and chairman of the advisory commission, is to write to his opposite number at the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority "to confirm the adequacy of the existing law".

The 1990 Act bans cloning by the technique called nuclear transfer, in which the nucleus of an embryo is replaced by one from another cell or embryo. But the use of adult cells was not then contemplated. Baroness Warnock, whose committee recommended the law, believes an amendment may be needed.

"We didn't know about cloning from adult cells, and the act probably now needs to be amended to outlaw all human cloning," she has said.

In an interview with BBC Radio, Sir Colin said: "Above all we ought to tell the truth and say where there are wonderful promises and excitement and contributions to health care, but also where there are terrible dangers. We have to be objective and balanced and point out the good things and the bad things, and then listen to what the public says.

"Science in this country and in every other country will not stop ... But with the power of global communication new scientific advances carried out in an unregulated country will be known to us within moments."

Some of the strongest opinions have been expressed in Germany, where one Socialist MEP, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, has called for a moratorium on cloning while a global ethical inquiry is carried out. She said the World Trade Organisation should undertake it.

But Guy Paillotin, president of the French National Institute for Agricultural Research, a state-funded agency, said news of the experiment was "whipping up panic" by raising the prospect that similar experiments could be performed on humans.

M Paillotin said that real scientific issues were already being sidetracked by "stupid" talk of mad scientists cloning humans. He said: "Everyone thinks that it will be used to clone a human ... We must say very loudly that this is out of the question, that this is stupid."

Michael Heseltine, left, the subject of Lord Tebbit's scathing attack yesterday

Tebbit lambasts Heseltine

Continued from page 1

Heseltine, that the only thing for which he will be remembered is "the political regicide which brought down our greatest post-war Prime Minister".

He adds of Mr Heseltine, who prompted the Tory leadership fight that ended Baroness [then Margaret] Thatcher's premiership in 1990: "At the roots of his hostility to her is a macho streak which sees only a subservient role for women, however talented, and a resentment that a woman achieved the supreme office which he coveted and which was denied him."

Lord Tebbit says Mr Heseltine, as an adolescent, became "a political missile" targeted on the office of prime minister. "In his political career Heseltine seems not to have wanted friends but actively used acolytes until their usefulness waned and they were dropped."

But, of Mr Crick, the biographer, he says: "He scarcely understands why someone like me set personal ambition aside to stop him. Heseltine's laser-guided system can focus on only one target at a time. He is a supremely good one-ball juggler, but a prime minister must keep a dozen or more balls in the air — and that he could not do."

Lord Tebbit says Mr Heseltine was responsible for bungling privatising the Post Office and the coal industry, was "lacklustre" at the Department of the Environment, and "let the Nimrod project run out of control" when Defence Secretary. However, he acknowledges that Mr Heseltine achieved successes, including the creation of Urban Development Corporations, the establishment of the Audit Commission and his campaign against CND. "It is a pity he was never sent to sort out social security," he adds.

Mr Heseltine was defended yesterday by Sir Nicholas Scott, the former Tory minister, who said: "Not for the first time my very good friend Norman Tebbit has gone over the top."

Attempting to play down the attack's significance, Sir Nicholas added: "I don't think that Norman these days is regarded as being a serious player in the political field."

Mr Heseltine was making no comment.

Water being sold too cheap, ministers told

Water companies and consumers should pay more for water if Britain is to conserve supplies, save rivers and protect wildlife into the next century, government advisers say. In a report to ministers, the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development also calls on government to take a more active and traditional role in planning water resources. It says that a national strategy balancing the needs of consumers, the environment and the water industry is urgently needed and that only government can take on such a strategic role.

The advisers, drawn from academia, industry and environmental groups, say the importance of water is not being reflected in its cost and recommend more widespread use of metering to encourage homes and industry to use water supplies more wisely.

Runcie call over Europe

Lord Runcie appealed last night for an end to "quarrelling, selfish factions" in the debate over Europe and a renewed recognition of European idenity. The former Archbishop of Canterbury was giving a lecture at the Cambridge University divinity school to commemorate the fourteenth centenary of St Augustine's arrival and his mission to convert England. He said: "A glance at Canterbury's history banishes any sense of insularity when we see what those from abroad have contributed to it."

E. coli butcher reopens

The Scottish town hit by the world's second worst *E. coli 0157* food poisoning epidemic braved freezing winter drizzle to welcome their favourite butcher back in business yesterday. In a show of loyalty and affection customers turned out in droves to buy pies, cooked meat and prime cuts from John M. Barr & Son, of Wishaw, Lanarkshire, the butcher thought to be the source of the outbreak that killed 18 people in central Scotland last year. His first customer was David Goodwin, 22, a trainee microbiologist.

Forces' medical 'crisis'

Britain no longer has enough medical teams to treat wounded soldiers in war because of excessive cuts, MPs on the Defence Select Committe said yesterday. Staff shortages in the Defence Medical Services were so serious that the MPs doubted whether "it will ever recover". With the closure of three military hospitals and service medics now working in special units in civilian hospitals, it was possible, the MPs said, that the military ethos of medicine in the regular Armed Forces had been destroyed.

Major defends Soames

The Prime Minister was urged in the Commons yesterday to agree to compensation for former service personnel suffering from so-called Gulf War syndrome. John Major defended Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, in the face of Labour demands for his resignation over the matter, and told MPs that compensation could not be paid until the cause of the illnesses had been resolved. Although no Gulf War veteran has yet sued the Ministry of Defence, more than 1,200 have indicated their intention to do so.

Princess faces tribunal

Diana, Princess of Wales, may be asked to give evidence at an industrial tribunal next week over the dismissal of the housemaid Sylvia McDermott (right). Ms McDermott, 43, who worked at Kensington Palace from 1987 until last November, is demanding reinstatement. Her lawyers said that if the Princess refused, they might serve a witness statement requiring her to attend the hearing in Croydon on Wednesday. They said: "The lawyers for Diana, Princess of Wales have conceded that the dismissal was unfair, but her request for re-employment has been refused." Ms McDermott, who earned £9,000 a year, is said to have turned down an offer of £5,500 to settle out of court.

More support abortion

A woman's right to choose an abortion is supported by an increasing number of Britons, including half of Roman Catholics, according to a MORI poll. Growing numbers of people, however, are rejecting the idea of terminating a pregnancy on the grounds that the child would be mentally or physically handicapped. MORI began questioning 1,943 adults on the day that the Prolife Alliance party announced it would field 50 candidates at the General Election demanding an end to all abortions, except to save a life.

We may be alone again

Two astronomers from the University of Geneva who found a planet orbiting around a distant star were mistaken, a professor has claimed. The discovery 16 months ago was the first evidence that stars other than the Sun have planets, and increased the chance of life elsewhere in the universe. But David Gray of the University of Western Ontario says in *Nature* that natural variations in the star explain "wobbles" in its image that the astronomers identified as being caused by a massive planet orbiting close to the star.

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Jones: unfair hearing

Rugby ban

Continued from page 1

had argued that the disciplinary hearing was unfair because there was no proper inquiry into the facts; he had no legal representation; the video was viewed in private, and the committee did not have an open mind when it reached its decision, which imposed a sanction of "unreasonable length".

She said the disciplinary proceedings gave the player no real rights and that the committee exercised powers and gave decisions which affect the livelihood of the players.

MPs and others gave a warning that the ruling could damage British sport, opening the floodgates for a host of similar claims. And lawyers agreed that the ruling underlined the changed climate in which courts increasingly would be asked to intervene in sports through a variety of legal challenges, including personal injury claims.

Jones, a 16-stone forward, said: "The referee is never wrong and I have not challenged his decision in any way whatsoever ... The issue was how the disciplinary hearing was then conducted — of there being no representation; no right of appeal. I am ecstatic. I am delighted with the judgment."

Stowaway deaths inquiry promised

By Andrew Pierce
Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR has promised an investigation into the deaths of seven illegal immigrants who stowed away on ships bound for Britain.

The bodies were found at two ports on the Humber, in the holds of vessels that had set sail for Europe from Africa with cargoes of copper. Two bodies were discovered last week in the hold of the Danish registered *Jenna Monk*, which berthed at New Holland. In the past six months, five bodies have been found in boats calling at Immingham and New Holland. They were all African men.

Police inquiries have failed to disclose why the problem, new to the Humber ports, has suddenly arisen. Inquests cannot be held until the bodies have been identified, which could prove impossible.

Paperwork discovered on the boats shows only one common link: that the ships all called at the the port of Abidjan on the Ivory Coast. The men are thought to have died from dehydration in the sealed hold of the boats or from the effects of pesticide used to kill maggots.

The problem was raised at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday by Michael Brown, MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, who told Mr Major: "Although they are illegal immigrants, they are arriving dead, and something needs to be done about it."

Mr Major said that the matter would be looked into by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary.

MPs admonish aid agency

THE Overseas Development Administration was rebuked by MPs last night for failing to make adequate checks on British firms that received grants to assist overseas aid projects (Valerie Elliott writes).

Potential conflict were exposed after scrutiny of a £23.36 million grant to a £66.75 million joint project by the Turkish Higher Education Council and a British company, TecQuipment.

A report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee yesterday showed that TecQuipment had many overlapping roles in the project, including evaluation of tenders. The firm had given business worth £10 million to Fisons, which had provided it with a bank guarantee.

The MPs said: "We are disturbed that lessons such as these had still to be learnt by a government department with so much experience in administering aid projects."

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RAF veteran renews dogfight with Israeli President

President Weizman, left, and in the Spitfire he was flying when he fired on RAF pilot Douglas Liquorish, pictured right in a Spitfire, after the Israeli mistook his plane for an Egyptian aircraft. Mr Liquorish said he bore no animosity

‘He was very sneaky — but he did not shoot me down as he claimed’

■ Daniel McGrory meets a man with vivid memories of a deadly aerial duel over the Israeli desert almost 50 years ago

DOUGLAS LIQUORISH is not sure if the RAF excluded him from their welcoming party for Ezer Weizman yesterday in case the two might have carried on their scrap from nearly 50 years ago.

They clashed in a dogfight over the Israeli desert in 1949 and have never met since, which disappoints 72-year-old Mr Liquorish as he wishes the President of Israel to know he bears him no animosity for crippling his Tempest fighter plane and giving him the fright of his life.

Britain was at peace on January 7, 1949, the day of an agreed ceasefire between Egypt and Israel, when four RAF Spitfires were ordered to patrol the disputed border to monitor troop movements and protect British military bases in Egypt. All four were shot down by Israeli ground fire or its Spitfires: one pilot was dead and three were still missing when Mr Liquorish and the others of 6 Squadron were scrambled from their base at Deversoir in the early afternoon.

“We didn’t even know what the mission was when we took off, but once in the air it was made clear London was going mad about losing four planes in a day when we weren’t supposed to be at war,” Mr Liquorish said. The RAF pilots came up behind four Spitfires which they presumed were British.

Forty-eight years on he describes with vivid clarity and expansive hand gestures how the four immediately banked away from the Britons as they flew over Rafah and then circled to appear from behind them. The Spitfires were being flown by the Israelis, who had mistaken them for Egyptians.

“He was very sneaky,” Mr Liquorice recalled yesterday. “He and the other Israelis came out of the sun and blinded us. But he didn’t shoot me down as he has always claimed. I made it home, battered but in one piece.

“One of our squadron was killed instantly and I saw his aircraft spiralling down and a second later I felt the bullets tearing into my plane with one ending up buried in the seat armour right behind my head. That was my first time in combat.” He still has the shell and would be delighted to return it to its rightful owner.

Mr Liquorish does not take issue with President Weizman’s account that the Israelis mistook them for Egyptian Spitfires, even though his Tempest was half as big again and more bulbous than a Spitfire.

“At the speeds we were going and in that confusion he obviously shot first and asked questions later. Perhaps, the Israelis were a mite trigger happy,” he said. All three forces flew Spitfires, “which made life a bit complicated up there”.

Another survivor from that encounter, Flight Lieutenant Brian Spragg, DFC, told yesterday how he was first to retaliate, firing on Weizman, damaging his Spitfire and forcing the Israelis into swift retreat. “If my aim had been better, by about two feet to the left, President Weizman would not be a guest of Her Majesty this week,” Mr Spragg said.

“He was trying to do the same to me, but with some peculiar manoeuvres I got behind him and let loose on his tail,” he said with practised understatement. His account of the dogfight in his pilot’s log simply reports “had a tussle with a Yiddish Spit”.

Mr Liquorish displays his pilot’s log, and President Weizman on a visit to RAF Cranwell yesterday

Mr Liquorish does take exception to President Weizman’s claim in his autobiography, *On Eagles’ Wings*, that he downed the RAF plane at Al-Arish. “I steered that old crate home with one wing hanging off, it was bleeding oil and I didn’t know if the hydraulics would work but I landed back at our own base, albeit somewhat clumsily.” It was not until the early 1980s and military records were released Mr Liquorish realised who his attacker was.

His former Squadron Leader, later to become Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling, did meet President Weizman at a function. “He telephoned me and said, ‘You were always a hot-tempered sort, Doug, so I had better not invite you in case you land one on his chin’,” Mr Liquorish said. His home in Norfolk is decorated with photographs and an oil painting of his Tempest, the *Lady Jane*, named after his then girlfriend. His wife, Beryl, was not forgiving: “I know Doug is keen to meet Mr Weizman but I still think I might punch him.”

Her husband chastened her: “All is fair in love and war. We were both as mad as hatters in those days — you had to be to fly planes like that. You did not think about the man in the cockpit, you just saw the plane and your only thought was to disable it, bring it down, not kill the fellow at the controls.

“It was self-preservation and I’m glad we both survived to tell the tale — albeit in our own different ways.”

Spitfire sell-off challenged

THE sale of a salvaged Spitfire to an American collector has been challenged.

Arthur Woolass 69, a retired salvage engineer, says that he is prepared to go to court to prove he is the owner of the aircraft that was sold for £73,000 by two restoration enthusiasts at Sotheby’s last November. He said yesterday: “I’m not interested in any money. All I want is justice. That plane belongs to me.” The Spitfire crashed into mudflats on the Humber near Mr Woolass’s home in Swinefleet, North Lincolnshire, on September 9, 1944. He says that his salvage claim was accepted by the Air Ministry in 1960. But in 1983 Stephen Arnold and Julian Mitchell, the eventual sellers, dug it out of the mud and started a 13-year restoration project at their homes in Kidlington, Oxfordshire.

John Foster, Mr Woolass’s solicitor, said: “Because of the age of Mr Woolass’s claim the salvage work was probably undertaken in complete ignorance that he had previously been given permission.”

Mr Woolass said: “I was shocked when I heard it had been sold. I never even knew it had been recovered.”

Treasurer jailed for golf club fraud

By Paul Wilkinson

THE treasurer of one of the country’s oldest golf clubs has been jailed after he embezzled more than £120,000 earmarked for improvements to the green and clubhouse.

Alan Craddock, 46, a former senior official with Barclays Bank, earned £25,000 a year but ran two cars, one a high-powered Saab with a personalised numberplate.

Yesterday as he started a 2½-year sentence, his former club colleagues were trying to get him banned from every club in the county. Craddock admitted stealing £123,000 from the Bishop Auckland Golf Club in Co Durham, when he appeared at the city’s Crown Court.

Officials of the club, which was founded in 1894, thought the money was safe in an account at the branch where Craddock had worked but when they approached the bank to discuss the project, they were told that they would need an overdraft.

Glynn Thatcher, the club secretary, said: “Lots of people feel very bitter. We’ve taken out a loan for £125,000 and will have to pay it back over 15 years. We should not have had to do that.”

In 1991 Craddock started running short of cash and set up a secret second account and paid funds into it. He then forged documents to make it look like the real account was full.

Craddock, who was later made redundant, vanished last November when the deception was discovered. He booked into a hotel in York and wrote 18 suicide letters to friends and family but police traced him the next day.

Ex-college head is asked about missing artworks

By Paul Wilkinson

Arnold: resigned over bogus qualifications

THE former principal of a university college is to be questioned over missing works of art and furniture.

Duane Arnold resigned last month as head of St Chad’s College at Durham after details of his qualifications listed in *Who’s Who* and other reference directories proved to be false. He blamed clerical errors and a plot against him by academics who disapproved of his radical methods. Last year the 280 students of St Chad’s passed three motions censuring his management style and expressing no confidence in him as their principal.

Since his return to America in December with his wife Jane, a part-time development director for the university, it has emerged that a number of items cannot be found.

After taking over in 1994 as head of the college, an independent body controlled by the Church of England, Dr Duane Wade-Hampton Arnold, 43, as he styled himself, began a number of alterations and redecorations to his 18th-century listed lodgings and other college buildings. One academic accused him of attempting to convert the entrance hall of his lodgings near the Norman Cathedral into a replica of the Oval Office in the White House.

During the alterations several pieces of furniture, paintings and ornaments were put in store. Among the pieces college officials have been unable to trace and which may still be in storage are an 18th-century chest of drawers, an oil painting and about a dozen objets d’art.

The officials are attempting to contact Dr Arnold through his English solicitors to see if he can shed any light on their whereabouts.

The college authorities contacted Durham police over the matter but were told its officers could not start an investigation before the college had carried out a thorough check and had contacted Dr Arnold to see if he could help to trace the missing items.

Two win Hoover damages

By Adam Fresco

TWO customers who lost out in the Hoover free flights fiasco were awarded damages yesterday in a move that could lead to thousands of other claims against the company.

District Judge Bennett ruled that Hoover abused a get-out clause when it refused to issue tickets to America in the 1994 promotion, stating there could be only “one application per household”. The firm said separate applications from the same address invalidated the claims but Judge Bennet, at St Helen’s County Court, said the clause should not have cancelled out all rights to free tickets but restricted Hoover’s obligation to provide two free tickets to the address.

He awarded £461 compensation to Peter Lucas, from Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, and £466 to Norman Magowan, of Belfast.

Father suspected son over murder

By A Staff Reporter

A SOLICITOR who became suspicious that his teenage son had been involved in the murder of one homosexual and an attack on another forced him to confess his role, a court was told yesterday.

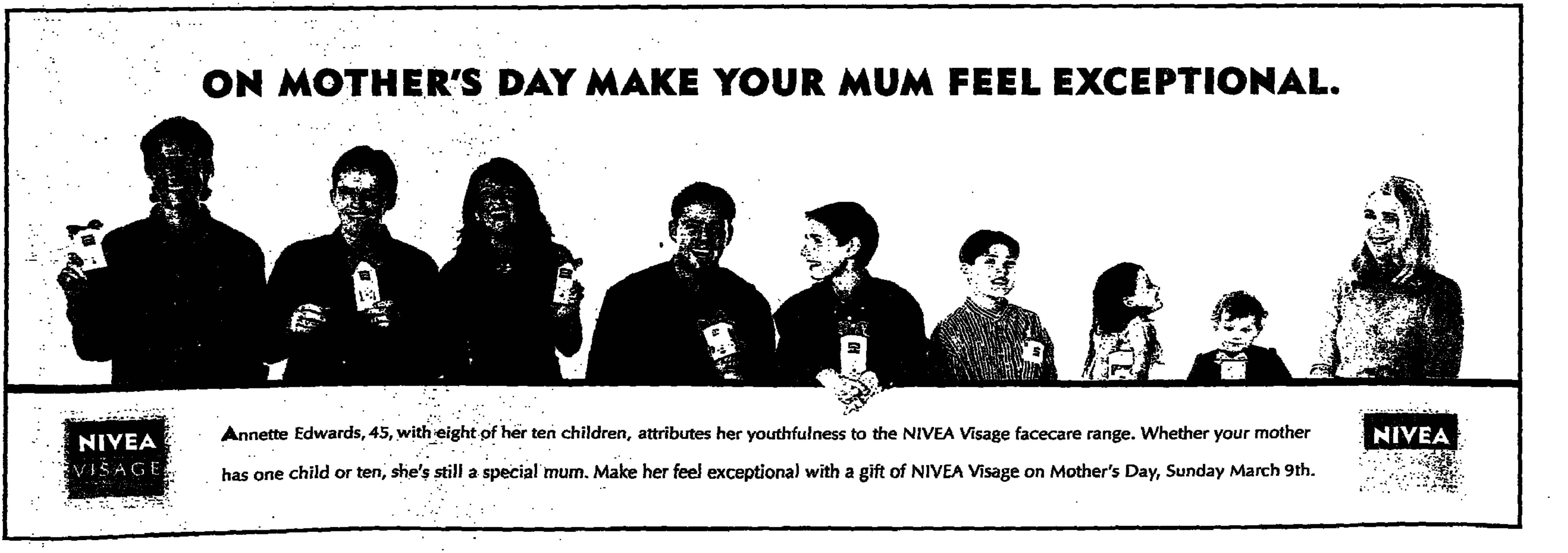
Michael Bownes, senior solicitor with Plymouth council, said he first began worrying about his son, Richard, when he realised he had done a load of washing in the middle of the night and did not get up to go to college. He had heard about the killing of Frederick Sweet, 64, and the attack on Bernard Hawken, 53, in Central Park, Plymouth, on the news and had slowly come to realise that his son was involved.

Richard Bownes, 18, Roberto Pace, 18, and Stuart Smith, 19, all of Plymouth, deny murdering Mr Sweet, attempting to murder Mr Hawken and causing him grievous bodily harm with intent.

The jury at Exeter Crown Court has been told that the two men were attacked separately on November 6 last year. Mr Sweet was killed by being kicked, punched and stamped on. Mr Hawken survived a similar attack but is still too ill to testify.

Mr Bownes did not give evidence in person but his statement was read to the jury. He said he had confronted his son, who said he knew nothing about the attacks. Later, he had tackled him again. “I said to Richard, ‘You were involved weren’t you?’ and he replied that he had thrown a punch but had not been involved in the beating. He said he had tried to stop it ..fs2. He was trying to tell me he was on the fringes.”

The case continues.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Home Secretary heads for confrontation with judges and lawyers over proposals for swifter justice

Howard sets out plans to curb right to trial by jury

By Richard Ford and Frances Gibb

THE MAIN POINTS

- ☐ **Automatic right to elect jury trial withdrawn in range of cases, including assault, causing actual bodily harm, many indecency charges, theft and burglaries.**
- ☐ **Offenders aged 17 to be dealt with by adult rather than youth courts.**
- ☐ **CPS loses right to discontinue cases on public-interest grounds.**
- ☐ **CPS staff to work from police stations to deal quickly with guilty pleas.**
- ☐ **Stipendiary magistrates to sit alone in youth courts, particularly in complex cases.**
- ☐ **Lay staff in CPS offices should be able to review case files, and non-lawyers employed by CPS should present uncontested cases in magistrates' courts.**
- ☐ **Clerks to justices to manage pretrial preparation of all cases.**
- ☐ **Youth court should administer cautions when an offence is admitted.**

Howard: quicker justice

MICHAEL HOWARD yesterday embarked on another confrontation with the legal profession by proposing curbs on the right to trial by jury and other substantial changes to the criminal justice system.

Thousands of offenders, including burglars and some sex offenders, would be likely to receive lighter sentences as a result of proposals for more cases to be dealt with by magistrates rather than the Crown Court. Seventeen-year-olds would be dealt with in adult rather than the youth courts and the Crown Prosecution Service would lose its power to discontinue cases on grounds that it would not be in public interest to prosecute.

A defendant pleading guilty could get free advice from a duty solicitor at court in the hope that they would be dealt with the day after being charged. Anyone seeking a delay because they could not get their own lawyer would be forced to use the duty solicitor.

Mr Howard published 33 detailed proposals in a report by a civil servant, saying that they would speed up the process of justice and reduce costs by £55 million. Fourteen of the measures would require legislation and all must now go out to consultation.

The Conservatives cannot introduce the proposals before the general election. If Labour wins the general election it would not proceed with the curbs on jury trial.

The Home Secretary admitted that the proposal to curb the automatic right to jury trial for certain offences was "especially sensitive". In a statement to the Commons he added: "Jury trial is a central feature of our system of justice and one to which the Government is entirely committed. We would not wish to restrict it without very careful thought."

Too many petty cases were heard at Crown Court, he said, adding that defendants with good reason for a jury trial, including those defending an unblemished reputation, would be able to appeal to magistrates.

Removing the automatic right to jury trial in cases such as theft, handling stolen goods and some sexual offences would result in 18,000 cases being heard by magistrates rather than in Crown Court, the report estimates. It could also lead to lighter sentences; the average jail term meted out by a magistrates' court is 2.8 months compared with 22 months in the Crown Court.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, told the Commons that Labour welcomed many of the recommendations, particularly reducing the age of adulthood in the courts from 18 to 17. But, he said, any erosion of the right to jury trials would be wrong. "If a police officer or an MP or even the Secretary of State was charged with an offence of dishonesty, would they not insist on being tried by a jury?" he asked. "If that is the case, why should others be denied this right of election?"

Some senior judges have strong reservations about any erosion of trial by jury and over proposals to strengthen the role of the Crown Prosecution Service in police stations.

Magistrates welcomed many of the proposals to reduce delays but said that rather than the right to elect jury trial being curbed, they favoured offences being reclassified so that some could be tried only by magistrates. The Magistrates' Association also attacked the proposal that justices' clerks or court clerks should decide matters such as the trial venue.

The Bar Council condemned the proposal on jury trial. Robert Owen, QC, the Bar chairman, said the proposals would have to be carefully considered but that "we do not believe that the interests of justice should ever be suborned to the demands of administrative convenience". The proposal to remove the right of defendants to elect for trial by jury would mean thousands of people losing the right to be tried by an ordinary jury of men and women, he added.

The Crown Court was "delivering justice daily in thousands of cases which attract no publicity at all — and it is doing it as swiftly as is consistent with doing justice to accuser and accused alike". It would also compound delays in magistrates' courts.

The Law Society strongly opposed the proposal, questioning the need for the Government to consider changing "such a fundamental right when it affects only a relatively small number of cases".

The right of defendants to opt for jury trial only results in a jury trial in about one in 200 cases. Of the cases committed to the Crown Court, only one in four reach there because of the defendant's choice. Robert Roscoe, of the society's criminal law committee, said that the interests of bureaucracy should not come before the interests of justice.

Research done for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice showed that 27 per cent of those electing trial intended from the outset to plead guilty. By the day of the trial, 83 per cent had pleaded guilty to some or all charges. Half those electing trial at the Crown Court believed that it would mean a lighter sentence, but this was mistaken.

A jury at the Central Criminal Court as depicted more than a century ago. The system goes back to Magna Carta

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Twelve good men and true are historic pillar of law

■ Frances Gibb, legal correspondent, looks at the history of the jury system, once called "the lamp that shows that freedom lives"

TRIAL by jury is regarded as a pillar of the English justice system, dating back at least to the 13th century and Magna Carta. But the right to elect jury trial instead of appearing before magistrates for certain offences has existed only for just over 100 years. In Scotland it does not exist; the prosecutor decides on the venue of trial.

Repeated attempts since the 1970s to curb jury trials have failed in the face of opposition from civil libertarians, the legal profession and MPs. Yesterday's proposals were drawn from a recommendation of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice which reported under Lord Runciman of Doxford in 1993. It was the most controversial of the 352 recommendations made by the commission.

The origins of the jury are lost in history. The word comes from the Latin for law, *jus, juris*. The idea may have been indigenous or imported by the Norman invaders of 1066 but it was in place by the 13th century, gradually replacing trial by ordeal.

Jury trial was thought to be enshrined as a constitutional right in Magna Carta in 1215, which says that "no freeman shall be taken or/and imprisoned, or disseised, or exiled, or in any way destroyed ... except by the lawful judgment of his peers or/and by the law of the land". But historians now believe that this refers to a decision of a judge rather than a jury.

The original role of jurors was very different from that of today: they were witnesses who swore an oath but did not pronounce judgment. They came from the same neighbourhood as the accused and their job was to determine the facts of the case using their knowledge of him and local circumstances.

The anonymity of jurors developed as the close-knit medieval society broke down and towns grew. Now the 12 members of the jury are required to give an impartial verdict, and to do so must have no prior knowledge of the accused.

Many judges and historians have described the jury system as a safeguard of individual liberty. Lord Devlin, the late law lord, said the jury "is the lamp that shows that freedom lives". William Blackstone, the 18th-century legal historian, called it "the bulwark of our liberties, the glory of English law".

In principle the jury is a random selection of a defendant's peers but that has never been strictly true. Until 1972 there was a property-owning qualification, which meant cases were heard by mostly male householders.

In lengthy trials today there is a large proportion of housewives and elderly and unemployed people, because workers cannot afford a long period away from their job.

The Juries Act 1974 has a long list of those who are exempt or who can be excused from jury service, including members of the legal profession, clergymen and people convicted of criminal offences in the previous ten years.

Defendants were given the right to elect jury trial in the 1879 Summary Jurisdiction Act, which introduced the choice for all offences with a maximum sentence exceeding three months in jail.

In 1975 the James Committee first proposed removing the right to elect jury trial for small thefts. The proposal was opposed by a majority in the Commons. In 1988, government officials put forward the idea again with the backing of the Lord Chief Justice at the time, Lord Lane. Again it proved controversial and the Government did not proceed.

In the civil courts, the role of the jury has declined hugely this century. As recently as 1933, 50 per cent of civil cases involved a jury. Today they are chiefly found in libel cases, although a jury of eight may be called at the county court at the discretion of the judge.

A coroner can call a jury of between seven and eleven people in some cases.

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TWO of Britain's leading crime novelists, Minette Walters (above) and Colin Dexter, will discuss the art of crime writing at a Times/Dillons Forum at 7.30pm on Tuesday, March 4, at the Institute of Education, London WC1. The audience will also have a chance to question the authors.

Dexter's books are worldwide bestsellers and his *Inspector Morse* television series topped the ratings with 18 million viewers. Minette Walters has also had television success with *The Sculptress*.

The admission includes £2 off the price of Walters's new novel *The Echo* (£16.99) and £1 off Dexter's *Death is Now My Neighbour* (£9.99).

For full details of how to book, see coupon (below).

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£40m Knightsbridge robbery mastermind denies he is being treated too leniently

Prisoner swapped Parkhurst for Italian sunshine

By Richard Owen in Rome and Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

VALERIO VICCEI, the man behind the £40 million *Knightsbridge* safe deposit robbery, described yesterday how he swapped a cell at Parkhurst for a life of virtual freedom under the Italian prison system.

Seven years after he was jailed for 22 years by an Old Bailey judge, Viccei, an "exemplary prisoner", is released from prison each day. He walks to work in a publisher's office and each night returns to the prison at Pescara on the Adriatic coast.

Viccei was transferred to Italy four years ago. Under the Treaty of Strasbourg, offenders can ask to serve their sentences in their home country rather than the country where their crimes were committed.

Yesterday, stung by British newspaper reports about his new-found freedom, Viccei put his case to *Corriere della Sera* newspaper. He said he was *angered by suggestions in the* British press that his transfer to Italy had been "scandalous". "All the others involved in the robbery have been let out of jails in Britain already, yet I am still a prisoner."

Viccei, nicknamed The Wolf, got into trouble as a student when he became involved in right-wing terrorist groups in Italy. They carried out a number of bombings and shootings in the 1970s and 1980s.

"I had a passion for weapons, beautiful women and fast cars," he said. He also killed a man, a "psychopathic" fellow prisoner. He claimed self-defence and was acquitted.

By 1985, Viccei said, he had come to the view that "a life of crime was leading me towards complete madness. I decided to make a new life for myself, *and ran away to London."* His attempts to go straight in Britain failed, "and one robbery led to another".

Viccei, 42, said life in Parkhurst top security prison on the Isle of Wight had been very tough: "They took away everything — my Ferrari, my Vuitton suitcases, my cashmere sweaters, my watches."

He chose Pescara, known for its up-market cafés and designer boutiques, "to be close to my family", who come from the area. He has a small flat, where he is allowed to spend some of the day before returning to prison.

Viccei, who maintains an athletic build, dresses with suave elegance. His only complaint is that he is not allowed to work in a lawyer's office, "in case I come into contact with members of the underworld". It is a prospect he regards as laughable, since he says he is "a completely reformed character".

Describing the 1987 robbery, Viccei said that 114 safe deposit boxes in a vault near Harrods were cleared in under two hours. "No one was hurt, no shots were fired." He denied the haul had amounted to £40 million. "Some of the deposit boxes did not contain what the owners said they contained. Other boxes — at least 40 of them — contained cash and valuables that must have been 'dirty', because after the robbery the owners never made a claim."

Despite his life in Pescara, Viccei rejects the idea that he is being treated leniently for a life of crime, or that the Knightsbridge robbery was a successful "caper". On the contrary, he regards himself as a failure: *"The rule in this* game is that if they don't catch you, you're a genius, but if they do, you're a miserable *nobody."*

Valerio Viccei, who goes to work from prison each day in Pescara, on the Adriatic, where he also has a flat

Parkinson's patient has pig cell transplant

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

PIG cells have been transplanted into the brain of a Parkinson's disease patient, where they survived for seven months.

The patient, a 69-year-old man, showed signs of recovery *after the transplant but died of* a blood clot in the artery to the *lungs*. A *post-mortem* examination showed that the pig cells had survived and spread within the man's brain.

In Parkinson's disease the brain cells that produce the chemical dopamine die off. Experiments in which patients have been given cells from human foetuses to restore the capability have been promising but there have been ethical objections.

As an alternative, a team led by Dr Ole Isacson at Harvard Medical School used foetal cells from pigs. In *Nature Medicine*, the team reports that the survival of the transplant suggests that pig cells may provide safe non-human tissue for transplantation to a large number of people with Parkinson's disease.

Muslims experience increase in hatred

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

HATRED of Islam and Muslims is prevalent in all sections of society and in the past 20 years has become more explicit, extreme and dangerous than ever, according to a report published yesterday.

Islamophobia affects the participation of Britain's 1½ million Muslims in public life, the education system and employment, the report says. It affects the amount of violence and harassment aherents of the faith suffer, and the extent of their poverty and deprivation.

The consultation paper, drawn up by leading churchmen, rabbis and academics, including the Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, was launched by the Runnymede Trust. It attempts to draw attention to the problem and highlight possible areas of action.

The paper argues that Islam is often seen as implacably hostile to the non-Islamic world. "It is certainly the case that Islam is depicted in Islamophobic discourse as wholly evil," the report says, arguing that anti-Islam prejudice in Britian is often mixed with racism.

Follow your hunches to make a decision

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

INTUITION may be more important in decision-making than thought. Scientists have found that successful decision-makers showed emotional responses before they took decisions: sweating slightly and becoming tense. In contrast, a group of brain-damaged individuals who seemed unable to make sensible decisions suffered from a lack of intuitive instinct. They made their decisions calmly, and got them wrong.

The results have been hailed as "really exciting" by Dr Stephen Kosslyn, a psychologist of Harvard University. "Emotion apparently is not something that necessarily clouds reasoning but rather seems to provide an essential foundation for some kinds of reasoning," he says.

The experiments, reported in *Science*, were carried out by a team led by Anthony Damasio of the University of Iowa. He believes that people with damage to the prefrontal cortex of the brain are unable to remember rewards and punishments, so cannot trigger the emotional responses that we recognise as intuition — and so make bad decisions all their lives.

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Judge upholds refusal to fund blood treatment

By Kathryn Knight

A HIGH COURT judge yesterday rejected accusations by *the families of four haemophiliac* boys that local health authorities had unlawfully refused to fund treatment with an expensive blood clotting agent because of the cost.

Mr Justice Jowitt said the health authorities were entitled to adopt certain policies and the *parents would have a* case only if they could show that the authorities had failed to consider whether their children had "special needs".

He said none of the families had yet applied for their children to be considered as exceptional and yesterday's *applications for leave to apply* for judicial review were "premature". The judge said they should not build up false *expectations as it might prove* difficult to prove their cases were exceptional.

He said he could see "no useful purpose" in granting the families permission to challenge the decisions made by South Lancashire, East Lancashire and Bury and *Rochdale health authorities* not to fund treatment with the genetically engineered blood product, recombinant Factor VIII. Until recently, the four boys, all from the North West and aged between 5 and 9, had been treated with recombinant Factor VIII, which was the *preferred choice of treatment* by their doctors. But in November last year the health authorities withdrew funding *and said the boys could be* equally well treated with a high purity form of human blood, saving about £200,000 a year in these four cases alone. The court heard that the three health authorities had decided that human blood-derived products were quite *safe and the advantages* of Factor VIII did not warrant the extra cost.

The families, one of whom attended court with their eight-year-old son, had hoped for a full judicial review of this decision, on the basis that such a blanket ruling was *unfair. All four families were* anxious that human blood-derived products might contaminate their children with *human diseases, such as* strains of hepatitis, and said they wanted the same right as children in other parts of the country to receive recombinant Factor VIII.

Duncan Ouseley, QC, representing the families, told the judge that the artificially man*ufactured blood was the pre*ferred treatment of clinicians at the hospital in Manchester where the boys were treated and gave the parents peace of mind. "The advantages are perceived as being in the avoidance of transmission of human diseases," he said.

He said the boys had switched to the new treatment in October last year but received a letter in November informing them that such advantages as there were to recombinant Factor VIII, did not warrant the extra cost of funding that treatment as "the benefit was too small for the cost". One family was particularly concerned because the boy's grandfather had died from hepatitis C contracted through contaminated human blood.

Robert Francis, QC, for the health authorities, told the court that human blood-de*rived products had* "a very good safety record".

Tony Wilson, chief executive of the Haemophilia Society, said the society would continue to petition health authorities and the hospital trust involved to re-examine the ban on funding.

Safer haemophilia therapy

By Jeremy Laurance, health correspondent

ALL patients with haemophilia should be treated with the genetically engineered form of the blood clotting agent Factor VIII, consultants say.

Although it costs more, the recombinant form is safer because it is not made from blood and so cannot transmit viruses. In recent guidelines, the *UK Haemophilia Centre Dir*ectors Organisation said the recombinant version should be given first to children and other new patients uninfected by viruses if the cost necessitated it being phased in. Use of the older form of Factor VIII, made from blood plasma, caused thousands of haemophilia sufferers to be infected with HIV and hepatitis C.

Factor VIII is made by pooling blood donations; one infected donation is enough to contaminate a batch. As a result, about 3,000 of this country's 5,000 haemophilia patients are infected with hep*atitis C and 1,200 with HIV.*

Although Factor VIII made in this way is now made safe with processes designed to destroy all viruses, fears remain that unknown viruses could survive. New hepatitis viruses have been identified, and tomorrow's *Lancet* reports a new herpes virus discovered in blood donated by a healthy man in San Francisco.

The Haemophilia Society said: "The whole thrust of the guidelines recommending the recombinant version is to get a treatment for children that gives them a chance to live a life free of infection." For an *adult with severe haemophilia* having three infusions of 1,000 units a week to prevent bleeding, the new version would cost £73,320 a year compared with £51,480 for the old. Most patients in Britain are given Factor VIII only when they bleed, reducing the cost.

CRISPIN RODWELL

Judith Boylan after the IRA abduction, during which her long hair was cut off

IRA hacks off Catholic's hair

By Nicholas Watt
Chief Ireland Correspondent

MASKED IRA terrorists tied a Catholic girl to a lamp post before cutting her hair and covering her in paint.

Judith Boylan, 16, was recovering at home yesterday after her ordeal, which marked a return to the IRA paint attacks against Catholic women in the 1970s.

Just before midnight on Wednesday she was abducted *by two masked men* from a taxi depot in Armagh where she works with her sister. The masked men, who told her they were from the IRA, were joined in the hijacked taxi by three other men armed with iron bars. They drove the teenager to the nationalist Mullacreevie estate where the attack took place.

Before the attack

A resident who tried to help the teenager was chased away but went back to help her when they left.

Miss Boylan said yesterday that she had feared she would be killed. "I didn't know where they were taking me. I thought I was never going to see home again," she said.

Miss Boylan said that the gang had no reason to attack her personally. "They don't like the people I go around with."

Anna Brolly, a local Social Democratic and Labour Party councillor, said: "This lassie is going to suffer terribly after this. This is going back to 1972 when all these things went on here. It leaves an awful tension hanging over the community."

☐ The IRA yesterday admitted that it murdered Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick, who was shot by a sniper in Bessbrook, Co Armagh, earlier this month.

Man in court over girl's murder

A 30-year-old man charged with the rape and murder of Kayleigh Ward has been remanded in custody for a week. John O'Shaughnessy, of Blacon, Chester, appeared before magistrates in the city handcuffed to a guard.

No application for bail was made and reporting restrictions were not lifted. Yvonne Ward, 36, the nine-year-old's mother, sat with relatives in the public gallery. The body of her daughter, who disappeared on December 19, was found in the River Dee on Tuesday evening.

Helper at risk

A woman who helped at a fatal accident at Warboys, Cambridgeshire, has been traced by police after medical checks showed that one of those injured in the crash had an infectious disease.

Crèche barrier

Ireland's Revenue Commissioners have suspended plans to impose VAT on crèches after warnings that the tax could undermine childcare services and lead to an increase in unqualified minders.

PC charged

A policeman has appeared before Bedford magistrates charged with stealing seven guns from his station in Luton. PC Geoff Pollard, 49, was bailed to reappear on April 22.

Sex case curate

A curate with a *Mohican* haircut and the *nickname* "Daz" admitted indecently assaulting a girl aged 14. The Rev Darren Champ, 36, of St Mary's in Ashford, Kent, will be sentenced on March 27.

Baby's funeral

The funeral is to be held today of a newborn baby boy found drowned in the Thames near Wandsworth Bridge last August. Police appealed for the mother of the baby to come forward.

Lottery ticket ban

A Safeway store in Stamford Hill, north London, has been banned from selling National Lottery tickets after Trading Standards officers found staff selling tickets to underage customers.

Sooty sweep

A punt by Scott Taylor, 21, a scrum half for Basingstoke, in an away rugby league match against Sudbury, sent the ball down the clubhouse chimney. The match went on with the sooty ball.

Defence chief warns of 'satanic UFOs'

By Ruth Gledhill, religion correspondent

A FORMER head of the Armed Forces has helped to form a pressure group to warn of the satanic nature of many unidentified flying objects.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of Defence Staff, 1971-73, is involved with UFO Concern out of worry that some UFO encounters are "definitely antithetical to orthodox Christian belief", according to today's *Church Times*.

The Rev Paul Inglesby, a sub-deacon in an Orthodox church, who is secretary of UFO Concern, said the truth about UFOs has been suppressed for many years. He had never seen a UFO himself but knew many who had. "It is what they do and the messages that come from them that are anti-Christian, or demonic." A memo about the new group had been sent to the editors of various UFO magazines, and letters of support had been received by, among others, a professor and a prisoner, he added.

Gordon Creighton, a Buddhist who edits *Flying Saucer Review*, said the group's founders were right to be concerned: "I do believe that the great bulk of these phenomena are what is called satanic."

However, David Wilkinson, a Methodist minister and an astrophysicist whose *Alone in the Universe* (Monarch, £7.99) was published this month, told the *Church Times* that Christians had nothing to fear from alien life forms.

Lord Hill-Norton, 82, confirmed last night that he had helped to found UFO Concern, but declined further comment.

No one is immune to the deadly dangers of alcohol

MEDICAL BRIEFING

THE death from acute alcohol intoxication of Iain Mills, 56, the MP for Meriden, provided a salutary lesson.

Deaths from alcohol poisoning after heavy drinking are not uncommon but more often occur in young people, students for instance, who have been celebrating but have yet to learn the danger of their new-found freedom in the union bar.

A few years ago Paul Knapman, the Westminster Coroner, who presided over Mr Mills's *inquest*, also returned a misadventure verdict on a journalist who had died *from acute alcohol poisoning* after attending a press conference. His death and that of Mr Mills, neither of whom were strangers to alcohol, show that anyone can suffer from acute alcohol intoxication.

The alcohol in Mr Mills's case was 400 milligrams in 100 millilitres of blood; five times the legal driving limit. It is assumed that he must have consumed between three quarters and a whole bottle of gin. The Medical Council on Alcoholism suggests that death is possible once the blood alcohol level reaches 400mg, and is to be expected by 600mg.

A pint and a half of beer, or three pub tots of gin, would induce in all those who are not desperately depressed a feeling of cheerfulness and some loss of social inhibitions. The disinhibitory effect is dependent on personality, but by 150mg of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood, most drinkers would be over-exuberant, have lost some self-control, and have slurred speech. *If their personality* was usually argumentative, they would be aggressive and difficult.

The more accustomed someone is to drinking, the higher the blood alcohol level needed to produce symptoms; too great a tolerance to the effects of alcohol can be a sign of over-indulgence.

Drinking ten single whiskies, or five pints of beer, would accord with a blood level of 150mg; three more whiskies and the drinker is staggering, seeing double and will find that it is hard to remember the details of the evening the next day. By 400mg the drinker has become a patient, in danger and suffering from sleepiness, which soon gives way to coma, oblivion, and as this week's inquest has heard, sometimes death.

The blood levels in women at which the symptoms induced by alcohol start to occur are the same as those for men but, in general, women fare less well than men in relation to the degree of intoxication. Alcohol is absorbed more rapidly and is metabolised by the body less efficiently in women, so that they become drunk faster, and sober up more slowly, particularly during their premenstrual phase.

This disadvantage stems from the different proportions that *women* have of fat to muscle. *If* women are short and plump, the effect is even more noticeable.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

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Leading universities lose £12m in grant to under-performers

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

LEADING *universities* will have to forfeit £12 million in grant to reduce cuts at less successful institutions, the Higher Education Funding Council *said yesterday*.

Overall funding for the 137 universities and colleges of higher education will rise by 2.8 per cent to £3.4 billion next year, *roughly in line with* inflation. But the council acted to prevent big losses at some universities, as grants were reassessed according to changes *in their research ratings* in the four-yearly review last December.

That was achieved by capping the increases awarded to the best-performing establishments: nearly £1.7 million was taken from University College London, £1 million from Oxford and £542,000 from Imperial College, London. Of that, more than £1.7 million was redistributed to Manchester, a similar amount to Exeter and £800,000 to Aston, although all three remained among the *biggest year-on-year losers.*

Peter North, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, said: "The need for the cap means that the selectivity policy is not working *fully. It points to the need* for better funding overall in higher education and for that we are all pinning our hopes on Sir Ron Dearing." Sir Ron *is chairing the Government's* review of higher education, which reports in the summer.

Professor Martin Harris, Vice-Chancellor of Manchester, blamed *its* reduced funding on the drop in research ratings for its medical school. Without the subsidy from other universities, the jobs of trainee doctors in Manchester's hospitals would be at risk, he said.

The biggest annual gains went to Cranfield University (10.3 per cent), UCL (9.5 per cent), York (7.7 per cent), Oxford (7.5 per cent), and Imperial College, London (7.4 per cent). Cambridge, which went down 7 per cent last year, gained 4 per cent this year. *The highest* losses were at Exeter (down 0.6 per cent), Aston (0.5 per cent), Queen Mary and Westfield College, London (0.3 per cent), and *Coventry, East Anglia, Kent* and Manchester (0.1 per cent).

Professor Gareth Roberts, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, *said: "The funding coun*cil has had to manage a very difficult funding round. It is clear that the money at its disposal is grossly inadequate."

Professor Jack Simmons, vice-chairman of the Association of University and College Lecturers, said the settlement meant a continuation of last year's 2.3 per cent cash cut, a real terms reduction of 5 per cent. "We are disappointed but not surprised. Universities will continue to shed staff," he said.

There will be funding for 747,000 university and higher education college places in 1996-97, the same as last year.

Blunkett to enlist parents in reading revolution

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

PARENTS should spend 20 minutes a night reading with their children, Labour said yesterday at the launch of a "crusade" *to raise levels of* literacy over the course of two parliaments.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, *promised* "a reading revolution". An hour a day would be devoted to "fast-paced, whole-class teaching" of reading and teachers would be *retrained. A Labour* government would declare 1998-99 a National Year of Reading.

The drive to give literacy priority in primary schools would be likely to lead to a wholesale revision of the national curriculum. Mr Blunkett said he would not drop entire subjects but wanted to create "elbow room" when the curriculum was revised in 2000.

A report by a literacy task force, chaired by Michael Barber, Dean of New Initiatives at London University's Institute of Education, blamed low expectations of children's performance for the "unacceptably broad" range of reading ability in primary schools.

Labour's plans, some of which mirror government policies, aim to ensure that by 2001, 80 per cent of 11-year-olds reach their expected reading standard. By 2006, all children would be expected to reach this level. Pupils who topped expectations would join older classes, and reading recovery schemes would help those who lagged behind.

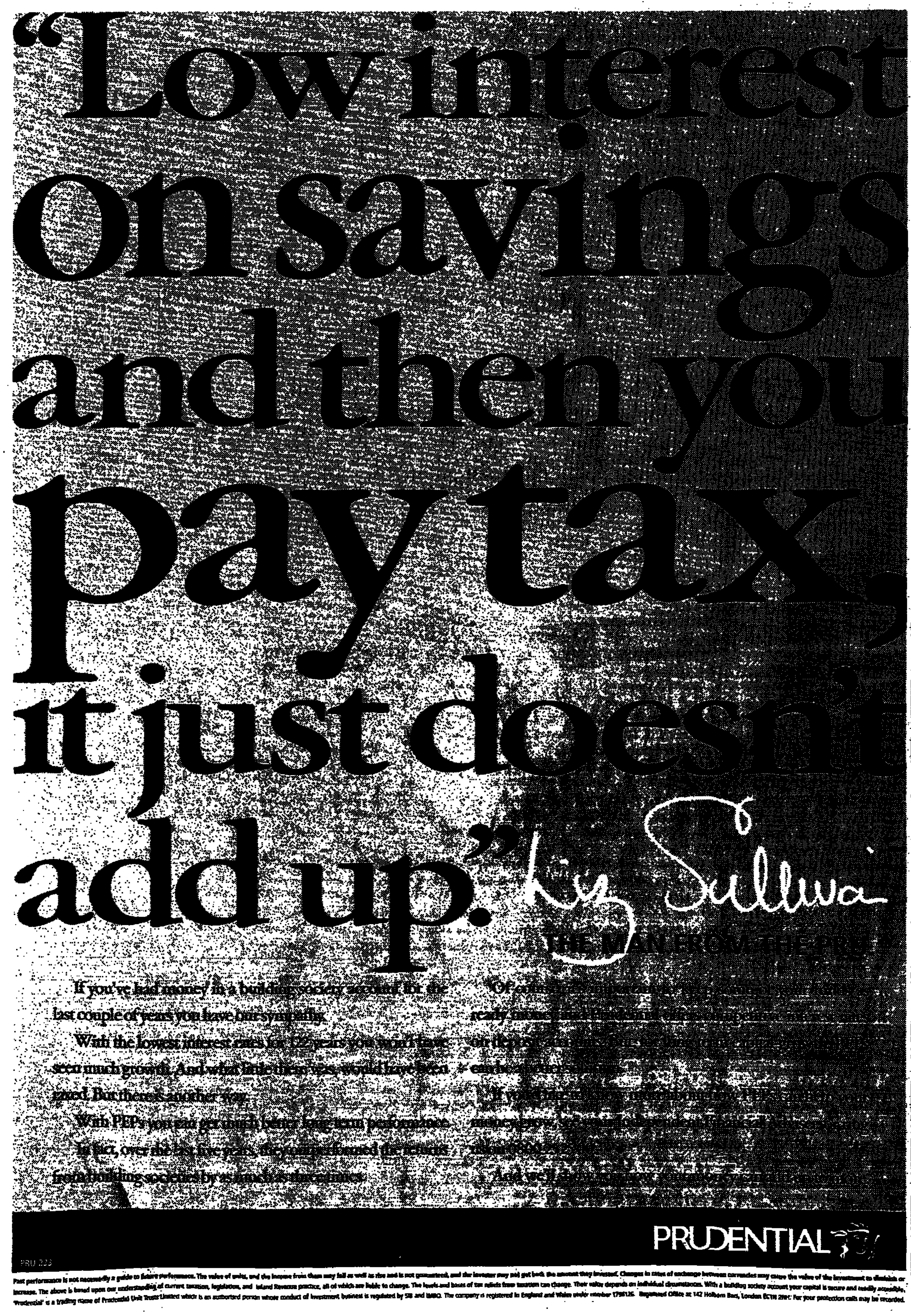
Parents would be encouraged to play their part by reading to their children or hearing them read for 20 minutes a night, ten minutes less than John Patten recommended as Education Secretary in 1994. This time would count towards *Labour's* recommendation of 30 minutes' homework each evening.

Trainee teachers would spend twice as long as at *present learning how to* teach children to read, while existing primary school teachers would embark on a "national programme of upskilling".

The Government responded by accusing Labour of stealing its policies. Gillian Shephard, *the Education* and Employment Secretary, said: "The work is already being done — through Conservative policies that Labour has opposed. Labour in power has shown little regard for literacy, as its record in local government shows." Unions broadly welcomed the proposals.

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Book time yesterday at Grafton Primary School, Holloway, north London. Labour would set a 60-minute minimum



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Liz Sulliva

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Fresh shellfish the catch of the week

By Robin Young

CONTINUING *storms* mean fish prices are *high and likely* to remain so but *gigas* oysters have not gone up in price although they are in prime condition and lend themselves *to frying or stuffing* as well as being eaten raw.

Mussels are another good buy, slightly up in price at about £2.30 for a 2kg bag. The best buy, though, is mackerel at about £1.50 for medium-sized Scottish fish.

Advertised promotions include:

Asda: beef topside/silverside with added fat £4.38 per kg, pork chops £2.99 per kg, frozen haddock fillets in crispy crumb 800g for £1.99, leeks 45p a lb.

Budgens: pork chops £3.72 per kg, Lincolnshire pork sausages 454g for 99p, chunky breaded plaice fillets 320g for £1.99, chicken drumsticks 1.1kg for £2.59, white grapefruit 17p each.

Co-op (CWS): fresh beef pot roast £3.99 *per kg, spare rib pork chops* £2.49 per kg, mangetout 200g for 99p, closed cup mushrooms 227g for 66p.

Dewhurst: topside/silverside/top rump £1.99 a lb, back bacon 200g *for 99p, medium eggs 89p a doz.*

Harrods: porchetta al forno 100g for £1.99, French turkey saucisson 100g for £1.79, French bacon filet fumé 100g for £2.49.

Iceland: honey-hugged chicken 780g for £2.69, prawns 400g for £2.49, smoked haddock 600g for £2.99, baby carrots 907g for 69p, sliced green beans 907g for 99p.

Kwik Save: red salmon halves 213g for £1.23, garden peas 300g for 24p, cut green beans 290g for 28p.

Marks & Spencer: £1 off prepared joints, butter-basted turkey breast joint 510g for £2.99, chicken breast portions four for £3.29, Yorkshire *puddings six for 99p, haddock* Scottish fillets four for £3.29.

Morrisons: rump steak £2.99 a lb, whole herring 99p a lb, onions 5lb for 75p, grapefruit six for 49p, canteloup melons 99p each.

Safeway: pork chops eight (900g) for £3.99, British cooked ham 49p a ¼lb, Cathedral City mature cheddar £2.99 a lb, leeks 49p a lb, cauliflower 49p each, new potatoes 18p a lb.

Sainsbury: rump steak £5.68 per kg, boneless pork leg joints £3.32 per kg, smoked salmon 400g for £6.65, sausages 454g for 99p, rainbow trout two (550g) for £2.85, *cauliflower 55p a lb.*

Somerfield: boneless leg of pork £2.91 per kg, whole fresh salmon £4.38 per kg, premium pork sausages 454g for 99p, family-size steak and kidney pies 99p each, babycorn 115g for 79p, small new potatoes 99p per kg.

Tesco: topside of beef £4.19 per kg, boneless leg of pork £2.99 per kg, lamb loin chops £8.79 per kg, cod *fillet £1.95 a lb, jellied eels 79p a* ¼lb, salmon steak £2.95 a lb, leeks 49p a lb, closed cup mushrooms 99p a lb.

Waitrose: British diced steak 340g for £2.29, ground pork 500g for £1.99, green Thai chicken curry 300g for £2.25, mandoras 49p a lb.

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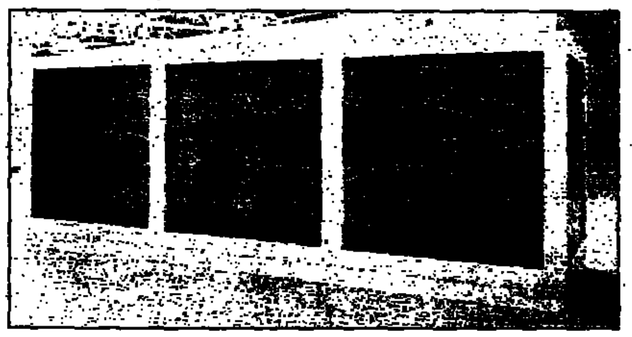
Royal Academy plays down controversy over exhibition with blood-filled head and Hindley portrait

Art's shock troops storm the bastion of tradition

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT



Damien Hirst's tiger shark will be among exhibits

A SCULPTURE incorporating nine pints of an artist's blood, a gory image of dismembered limbs and a portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley are to go on show at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

The works by Marc Quinn, the Chapman brothers and Marcus Harvey respectively will be lent by the advertising millionaire Charles Saatchi, who has changed the course of British contemporary art by exhibiting such works at his north London gallery.

For Royal Academicians who fiercely guard the Academy's reputation as a bastion of tradition, and who were dismayed by attempts to revolutionise the Summer Exhibition with avant-garde works, news of a show devoted to such art came as a shock.

The RA was yesterday playing down the controversy, although the very title of the show, Sensation, indicates that it is prepared for criticism. Norman Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary, argued that such works were as shocking, difficult and thought-provoking as Goya's *Disasters of War* and Picasso's *Guernica* were in their day. "Art is good when it perplexes us," he said.

The Academy says that apart from reaching new audiences with a central location, showing the works in a new setting and in different juxtapositions will transform them.

Among the most "difficult" images is Harvey's 11ft Hindley portrait, created from thousands of handprints of two children. Relatives of her victims were outraged when it was exhibited last year at the Saatchi Collection and called for it to be banned. Quinn created his sculpture, called *Self*, by taking a rubber mould of his head and filling it over several months with his blood. The Chapmans' mutant mannequins conjure up violent and pornographic imagery.

Another exhibit will be the preserved tiger shark by Damien Hirst, who has upset animal rights campaigners by pickling sheep and cows.

The 30 artists to be featured have been hailed as leading lights of their generation, part of an "explosion of creativity" in the visual arts that has not been seen since the emergence of Pop Art in the 1960s.

However, Peter Coker, a Royal Academician who was considered a wild figure in the 1950s with his "kitchen sink" paintings, said: "I'm very much against the RA going down that path. This has put me off my lunch. It's ghastly.

"I might be criticised for being old-fashioned and backward, but how far forward you can look I don't know. I've become a sheer cynic about these things. I've never seen a Damien Hirst work and I don't want to. I can see a dead sheep in my butcher's."

Marc Quinn used his own blood for *Self*, left. Marcus Harvey created *Myra* from children's handprints

Michael Reynolds, a member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, said: "It's about three quarters of a century since a lavatory pan was first shown by Duchamp as a work of art. That was the last revolution. These artists are getting on a 70-year-old band-wagon. This is the new establishment throttling anything new that might be coming up." David Lee, editor of *Art Review*, said: "I can't believe it. This is another endorsement for Saatchi. It increases the value of his holdings, ready for when he wants to offload them. Why should they monopolise a space which has hitherto been dedicated to a different kind of art? They already monopolise all the publicly funded spaces in London."

However, others were more receptive. Leonard Rosoman, RA, said: "The RA should represent a kind of cross-section of what is going on in London. From that point of view I'm all for it. People should realise the Academy is no longer just representing one form of painting or sculpture. But it'll upset the traditionalists. It's important that people are upset."

The show runs from September 18 to December 28.

Market keeps a weather eye on master patron

BY DALYA ALBERGE

CHARLES SAATCHI has become Britain's most influential collector of contemporary art. Such is his standing as a patron, he can make or break an artist and his activities are seen as a barometer of the market.

He has such a passion for art that he buys in bulk when he finds an artist he loves. He has been known to snap up as many as 20 works in one go, trusting his eye and relying on gut feeling rather than any professional adviser.

His insatiable appetite was first whetted by a Sol LeWitt drawing he bought in 1970 for £100. In the decades since then, he has introduced British audiences to artists such as Jeff Koons, master of kitsch, Robert Gober, a specialist in conceptual works inspired by Duchamp, and Donald Judd, a minimalist. Damien Hirst, infamous for his presentation of preserved animals, is one of his most famous home-grown discoveries, although Mr Saatchi claims not to have strong feelings about the nationality of artists he follows.

Saatchi buys in bulk and relies on gut feeling

The art world gets nervous when he sells, questioning his motives and accusing him of being a glorified dealer. Mr Saatchi counters that he does not buy for investment and that tastes change.

He prefers to be out of the limelight and can be perplexed by media interest, once complaining that people wanted to know more about him than the artists he showed. He has talked of wanting to share his enthusiasm for art with the public. His gallery in Boundary Road, St John's Wood, draws tens of thousands of visitors each year and he lends to galleries around the world.

Yesterday Mr Saatchi, who is curating the Sensations exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts with Norman Rosenthal, said: "We owe it to this generation of young British artists to make the show as dynamic as possible."

He spoke of his excitement that the works would be seen by a much wider audience than he could hope to attract at the Saatchi Gallery. "One of the major disappointments that I've felt over the years is that Boundary Road has not opened other people's eyes in Britain to the possibility of collecting, as compared with Europe and the States."

Mr Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary at the Royal Academy, said: "As well as highlighting the vitality and inventiveness of current British art, the exhibition will demonstrate the commitment that Charles Saatchi has shown in collecting the work of these young artists."

Leading article, page 19

Diadema antillarum
(Long-Spined Urchin)

Latrodectus mactans
(Black Widow Spider)

[illegible]
(Common Hoodlum)

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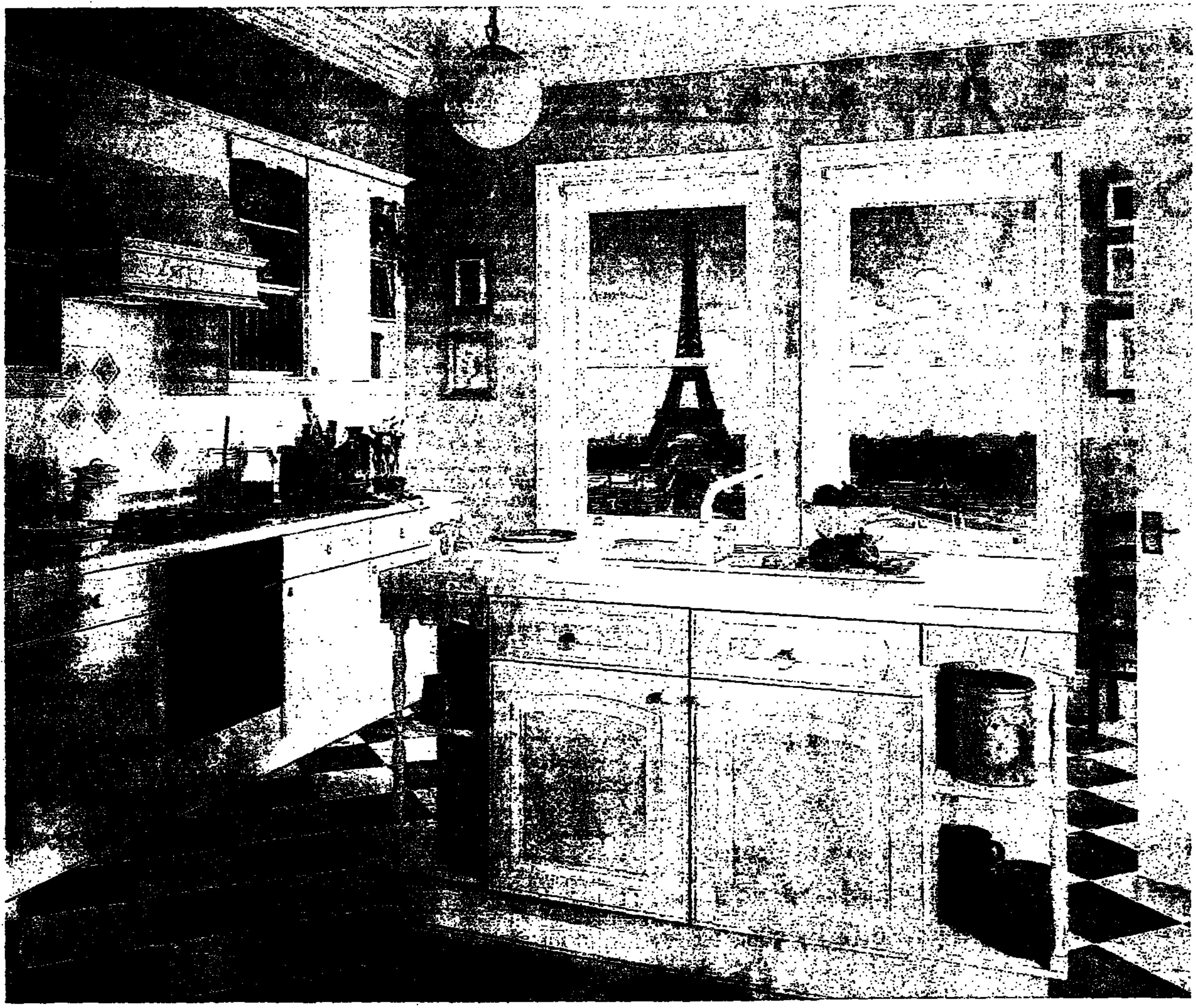

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Poll offers Major small comfort as Labour stays ahead on most key issues

Ray of economic sunlight brightens Tory outlook

By Peter Riddell

THE Tories are persuading more people that they have the best policies for managing the economy, but are lagging well behind Labour on other important issues for the general election, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, will reinforce Tory claims that they are winning back support on the economy. Among those saying that managing the economy will be very important in helping to decide their vote, 44 per cent say the Tories have the best policies, and 29 per cent Labour. At the end of last March, 34 per cent said Labour, and 31 per cent the Tories.

This change, coupled with the improvement in economic optimism, is the most positive news for the Tories. Among the public as a whole, the Tory and Labour ratings on managing the economy are almost the same as in 1992.

However, this has been offset by dissatisfaction with the Government's record and a time-for-a-change mood. Moreover, not only is John Major's personal rating less favourable than his was in 1992 or Margaret Thatcher's was in 1983 and 1987, but Tony Blair's rating is far better than those of his predecessors.

Labour is just ahead of the Tories on having the best policies on taxation. This is a big change compared with five years ago, largely because the number saying the Tories have the best policies has fallen sharply. This has resulted in an increasing number of don't knows rather than a rise in the proportion believing that Labour has the best policies on taxation.

Of the 14 key issues, Labour is ahead on eight, the Tories on five and the Liberal Democrats on one. Moreover, Labour is a very long way in the lead on the three issues rated as most important, healthcare, education and unemployment. The two parties are level-pegging on law and order, a big improvement for Labour since 1992, while the Tories are in the lead on the economy, Europe, Northern Ireland and defence. Labour is also ahead on other social issues such as pensions, housing, transport and trade unions.

Europe has moved slightly up the rankings of the most important issues, from tenth to eighth over the past year, among the public as a whole. For Tory loyalists, however, it is the fourth most important, behind health, law and order, and education. But it is only seventh among those who have switched away from the Tories since 1992 and whom the party is trying to win back.

Of those regarding the issue as important, the number regarding the Tories as having the best policies has risen from 31 to 34 per cent over the period. Overall, 63 per cent of Tory loyalists believe that the party has the best policies on Europe, compared with only 18 per cent of those who have deserted the Tories since 1992.

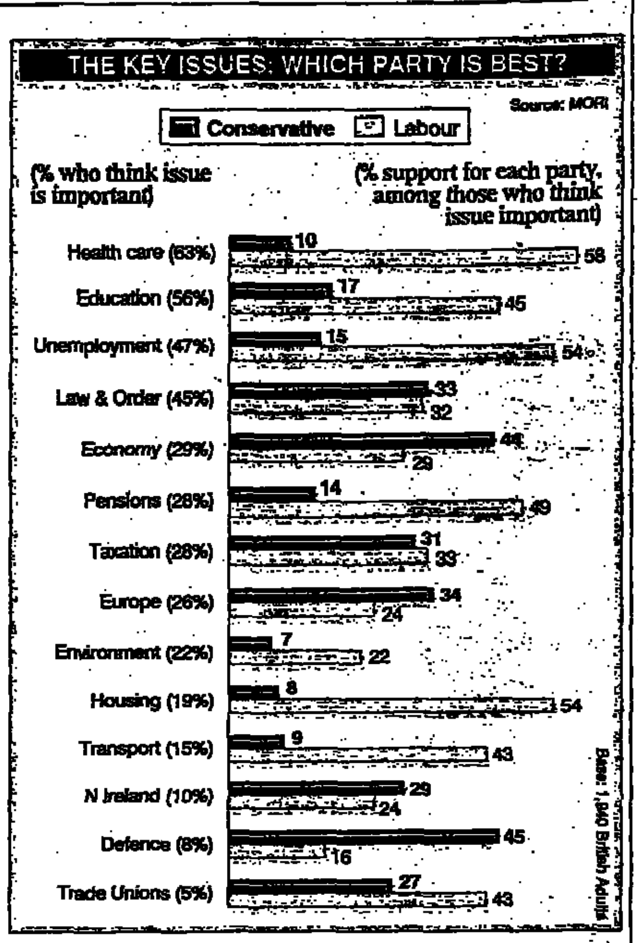
Europe is also important for Liberal Democrat supporters. Some 15 per cent believe that the Tories have the best policies on Europe. The issue is of well above average importance in Tory/Liberal Democrat marginal seats. This suggests that the Tories should emphasise Europe in those parts of the country, such as the South West, where they face a strong Liberal Democrat challenge, since its supporters are more Eurosceptic than the leadership's pro-European stance. The best issue for the Liberal Democrats is protecting the environment, on which they are rated just ahead of Labour.

These findings on which issues are very important in deciding how people will vote differ from the answers to the question asked by MORI every month about which are the most important issues facing Britain today. While the number of people regarding Europe as among the most important issues facing Britain today has risen from 29 to 35 per cent over the past month, and is now ranked fourth in importance, it is mentioned by just 26 per cent as being very important for the election and is eighth in ranking.

The latest poll also suggests that the Labour campaign to highlight BSE in the failed motion of censure on Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, ten days ago has made no impact. The number mentioning BSE as among the most important issue today remains at 2 per cent, as it has since last autumn.

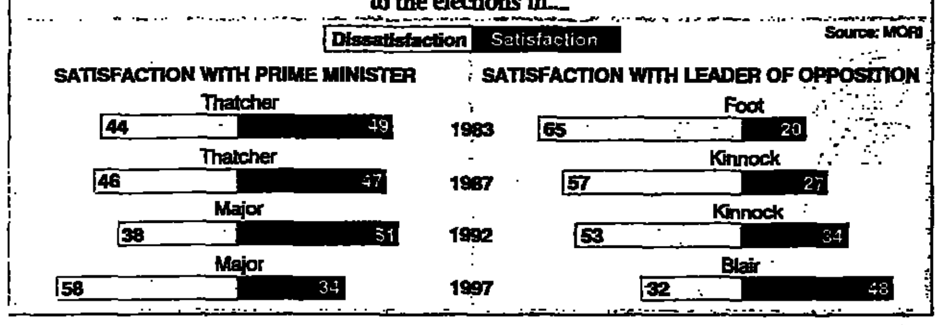
☐ *MORI interviewed 1,940 adults face to face from February 21 to 24.*

THE KEY ISSUES: WHICH PARTY IS BEST?



TWO MONTHS LEFT

Satisfaction with the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition two months prior to the elections in...



Why Soames is right to reject resignation call

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Nicholas Soames is right not to resign as Armed Forces Minister. The demands for him to do so reflect a complete misunderstanding of ministerial responsibility. Of course, there *are* circumstances in which a minister should resign, but, as the Public Service Committee argued in its report last summer on *Ministerial Accountability and Responsibility*: "Proper and rigorous scrutiny and accountability may be more important in Parliament's ability to correct error than forcing resignations."

There is no clear pattern. As Geoffrey Howe told the committee: "The question of resignation can hardly be reduced to matters of principle. That may sound a very bizarre thing to say, but so much depends upon the scale of the tragedy, disaster, mistake, on the timing of the disclosure of it." In practice, a resignation has depended on whether a minister loses the support of his or her colleagues, both within the Government and on the back benches.

The idea that there was once a golden age of honour when ministers accepted responsibility for every act of the civil servants in their department is nonsense. It is now accepted that Sir Thomas Dugdale resigned as Minister of Agriculture in 1954 over the Crichel Down case not for this reason but because he lacked backbench support. (This is discussed in *Conservatives and the Constitution*, a thorough study by Andrew Lansley and Richard Wilson published yesterday by the Conservative 2000 Foundation).

An arcane consitutional debate has developed about what accountability means in practice given that no minister can conceivably know what is being done in his or her name by a civil servant in a vast department. Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, has argued that ministers cannot be held responsible for acts of which they have no knowledge, or cannot be expected to know about, but they remain accountable to Parliament for explaining what has gone wrong and how it will be put right. The Public Service Committee was dubious about the possibility of distinguishing between where a minister is personally responsible, and liable to take blame, from one in which he is consitutionally accountable. Its report said: "Ministers have an obligation to respond to criticism made in Parliament in a way that seems likely to satisfy it — which may include, if necessary, resignation."

The revised version of *Questions of Procedure for Ministers* states that "ministers must not knowingly mislead Parliament and the public and must correct any inadvertent errors at the earliest opportunity". This is also included in a resolution of accountability which the Public Service Committee has proposed and which, after amendment, the Government has said it will bring to the Commons before the dissolution.

These are the yardsticks by which Mr Soames should be judged. Something very serious has obviously gone wrong at the Ministry of Defence over the use of toxic pesticides during the Gulf war. When Mr Soames learnt last September that he had been misled by officials, he informed the Defence Committee of the true position and in December apologised to the Commons for unwittingly misleading it in a series of answers. There is no reason why Mr Soames should be blamed for the actions of officials which are now, quite properly, being examined in a disciplinary inquiry.

The Defence Committee should be informed of the results. The main question for Mr Soames is whether he could, or should, have taken earlier action to find out what had happened. This is likely to be discussed in the Defence Committee report. However, to demand the immediate resignation of Mr Soames — as David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, has done — is unjustified. Mr Clark has been indulging in the gesture politics of opposition, not behaving as an aspiring minister who hopes to become Defence Secretary nine weeks today.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour councils chief warns of big tax rise

By Jill Sherman

COUNCIL tax bills could rise sharply under a Labour government, one of the party's most senior councillors said yesterday.

Sir Jeremy Beecham, who takes over as chairman of the newly merged Local Government Association from April, also gave warning of tensions between Tony Blair and local authorities if Labour exerts too much central control.

In an interview in yesterday's *New Statesman*, Sir Jeremy, former leader of Newcastle City Council, said that he would be seeking a much greater degree of local autonomy under a Labour government. "I think at least 50 per cent of council spending should be raised locally. If an authority can demonstrate it is acting responsibly it will be able to carry its local population. That's what local democracy should be about. You simply can't have local democracy with spending levels set by central government."

Beecham: local control

He went on: "If I was Tony Blair and I wanted a shift in the proportion of money coming from local taxation I would move early: let the councils take the flak. Nobody will increase tax with enthusiasm, but there has been a hell of a lot of damage to services which has to be addressed."

Redwood books his place in election campaign limelight

By Andrew Pierce

THE former Cabinet minister John Redwood is publishing an analysis of the single currency next month that will stimulate the Europe debate in the Tory party on the eve of the general election.

Mr Redwood, who has finalised plans for a tour of the country during the election campaign, will argue in his 80,000-word book that the only way the single currency can work is by fudging the Maastricht convergence criteria. He will use *Our Currency: Our country*, published by Penguin, to launch his high-profile election campaign, organised independently of Conservative Central Office, in which he will speak in 30 constituencies.

The Conservative 2000 Foundation has printed hundreds of leaflets listing ten objections to the single currency. Mr Redwood will distribute them during the campaign, underlining his outright opposition to the single currency in defiance of the party's wait-and-see policy.

Yesterday he denied that he would be rocking the boat on Europe. He said his book would support the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, whose view was that monetary union could go ahead in 1999 only if other states fudged the convergence criteria. Mr Redwood added: "A single currency would be wrong for Britain and wrong for Europe. Luxembourg is the only country that will qualify by January 1, 1999."

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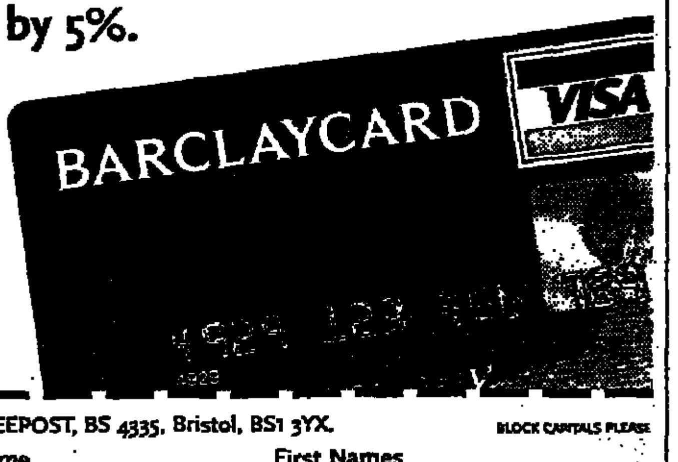

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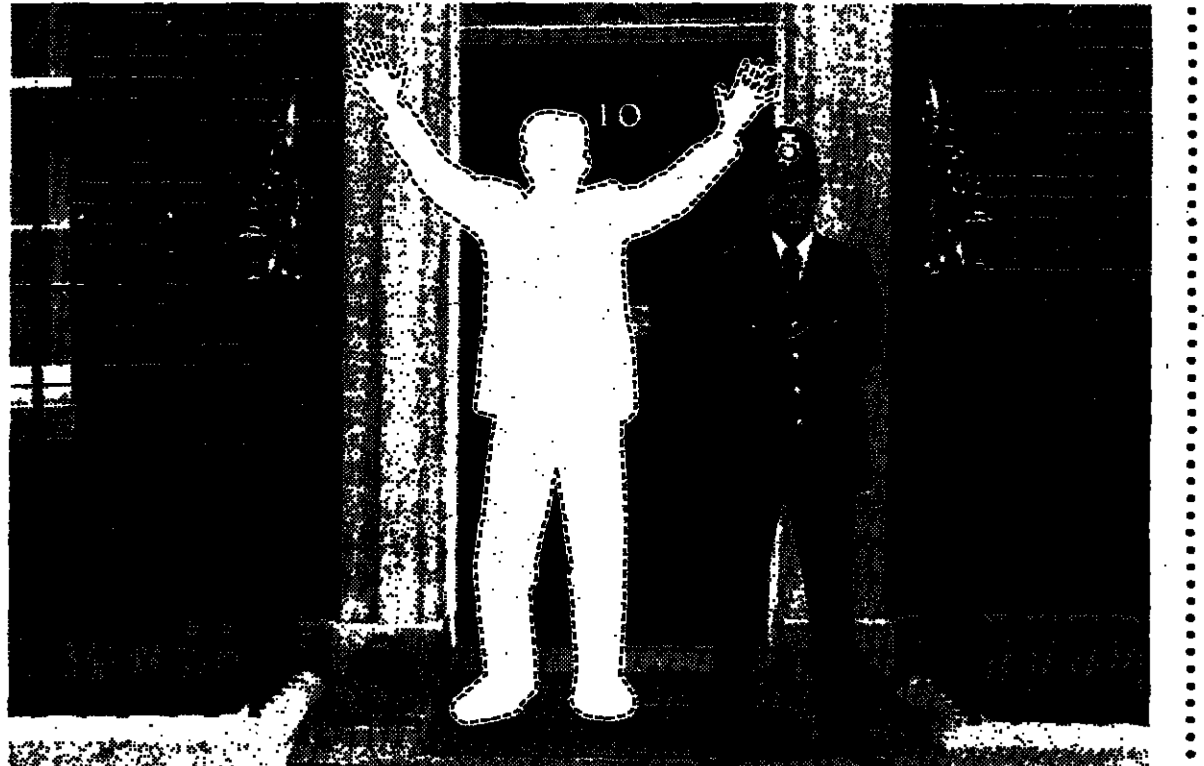

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Army tells Turkish leader to curb Islamic militants

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

A ROOM of angry generals will today warn Necmettin Erbakan, Turkey's pro-Islamic Prime Minister, not to tamper with the secular pro-Western character of the Turkish state.

The confrontation will take place at a meeting of the country's military-dominated National Security Council, which is expected to pass a resolution urging Mr Erbakan to crack down on Turkish Islamic militancy, including hotheads in his Welfare Party.

Demirel: fears army patience wearing thin

Although the move is purely advisory, it will be one the Prime Minister ignores at his peril. Mr Erbakan's previous political party was among those disbanded when the military staged a coup in September 1980. Then he was banned from political life for seven years.

"The meeting is going to be tough and it's going to be nasty," said a close aide to Suleyman Demirel, who as Turkish President chairs the security council. Mr Demirel, himself unseated as Prime Minister twice by the military, has given an outspoken interviews making clear his fears that the military's patience is wearing thin. Earlier in the week he indicated he would call for general elections if his office had the power to dissolve parliament. He also gave a warning that any party campaigning on religious principles could be banned under the terms of the constitution.

"If someone keeps asking for a beating, they are bound to get one," Mr Demirel told the daily *Yeni Yuz Yil*, a remark aimed not just at the Government but at a badly divided Opposition which appeared to prefer exploiting tensions with the army to unity. That opposition role now appears to have fallen to the military, which stepped out of its barracks just over a month ago. Tanks paraded through the streets of Sincan, outside Ankara, whose radical Islamic Mayor had staged an anti-Israel, pro-Sharia-law meeting addressed by the Iranian Ambassador. Although the military said the exercises were planned, few doubted it was a way for the generals to show displeasure.

BURHAN OZBILICI / AP

Necmettin Erbakan is proud of his record in office but is under strong pressure to ditch his radical colleagues

Modern opinion in Turkey was outraged at the sight, repeated over and over on private television stations, of a former bodyguard of the Sincan Mayor slapping a woman reporter to the ground. The nightmare of being hounded into an Islamic regime prompted a march by secular-minded women on the capital this month.

Public opinion has also been alarmed at reports of large sales of pump-action rifles in pro-Welfare parts of the country and of the sight of Welfare supporters in the town of Kayseri wearing paramilitary uniform.

Mr Erbakan yesterday appeared unrepentant over his Government's record which, he said, included lowering interest rates and keeping the economy on an even keel. He described as "secular fascism" a brand of thought that refused to allow civil liberties to practising Muslims.

The Prime Minister is coming under increasing pressure to jettison some of his more radical colleagues. Many commentators believe he would like to steer his party into the political centre, but is unable to abandon a confrontational style that served him through 30 years of political opposition.

Many believe the generals have remedies short of a coup. Several members of Tansu Ciller's True Path party, now in the ruling coalition, are people over whom the military has influence. They may well come under pressure to withdraw from that coalition.

Leading article, page 19

NEWS IN BRIEF

Orchestra to admit women

Vienna: After months of pressure from leading cultural figures and the Austrian Government, the Vienna Philharmonic, one of the last male-only orchestras in the world, voted yesterday to admit women.

The decision came after a four-hour meeting of the Philharmonic's musicians, most of whom also form the orchestra of the famed Vienna State Opera. The decision to admit women applies to both orchestras. *(AP)*

Woman jailed

Delhi: A court here sentenced a Spanish woman of 73 to 10 years' hard labour for trying to smuggle 24lb of heroin out of the country. Rúiz Guerrero Dolores had been held almost 18 months awaiting trial. *(AFP)*

Golden gait

Cairo: A smuggler was arrested by Egyptian customs officials who were alerted by his strange walk — he was weighed down with a belt made of 26lbs in gold bars, airport officials said. *(AFP)*

Greece threatens veto if EU talks to Turkish Cypriots

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

GREECE has given its European Union partners a sharp warning that it might veto the accession of all new east European entrants if EU officials insisted on including Turkish Cypriots in talks on the island's accession.

Greece was isolated earlier this week when its EU partners, led by Britain and Germany, insisted that the Turkish Cypriots would have to be consulted at some stage during the talks, due to begin at the end of this year.

In an angry reaction Theodoros Pangalos, the Greek Foreign Minister, said the EU would pay a price for such a move. Athens and Nicosia insist that there should be no talks or negotiations that implied any recognition of the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which is not recognised by any country except Turkey.

Mr Pangalos called the stance by Britain and Germany "criminal and foolish". He refused to agree a text for a scheduled meeting between Cyprus and the EU, and it was therefore scrapped.

The Dutch, currently holding the EU presidency, said on Wednesday that it would be politically and physically impossible to admit Cyprus without progress towards healing the island's division. The message was reinforced by Hans Van Den Broek, the EU External Affairs Commissioner responsible for enlargement, who said Brussels wanted the Turkish Cypriots to take part in the talks.

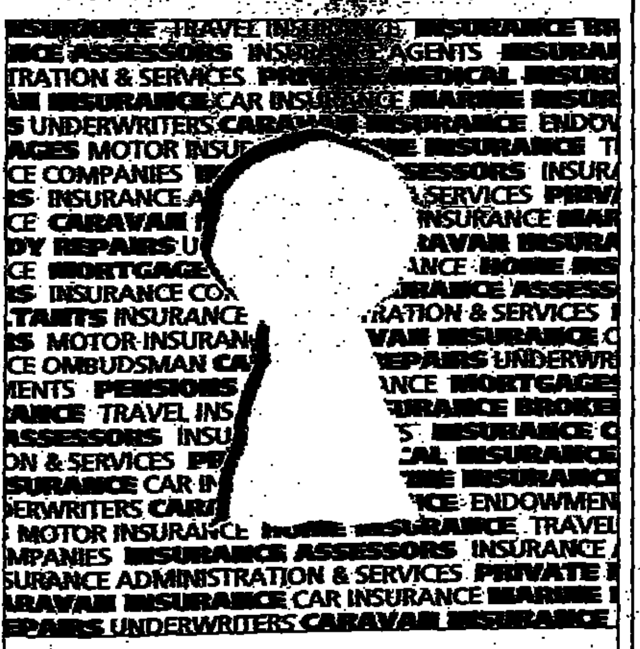
The row blew up as Sir David Hannay, Britain's special envoy to Cyprus, was having talks in Athens and Ankara. Britain insists that substantial progress in finding a political solution for Cyprus must be made this year. However, after recent violence on the Green Line and heightened tension between Greece and Turkey, the two sides are now further apart than ever. Sir David will return to Cyprus on March 11.

Britain, one of the guarantor powers in Cyprus, has reacted angrily to Greek intransigence. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, made clear that there was no question of admitting only the southern half of the island. He also said that the EU negotiations should, in themselves, speed a resolution; face-to-face talks ought to begin in the next few months.

"At the end of the day, we do want to see a situation where all Cypriots are able to participate in the accession negotiations," he said. Britain had "no intention" of recognising the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state, but he made clear that only a united Cyprus could be admitted as a full member of the EU.

The row could pose a big threat to two vital EU interests: enlargement to the east, and the customs union between the EU and Turkey. Greece is already blocking EU funds aimed at offsetting Turkey's loss of revenue from tariffs lifted under the customs union. And if Athens refuses to ratify the accession of new members from central and eastern Europe, no expansion can take place at all.

Turkey, in turn, has threatened to veto the expansion of Nato if EU funds for Ankara are still blocked. The Turks say that there is a clear link between economic and security issues.



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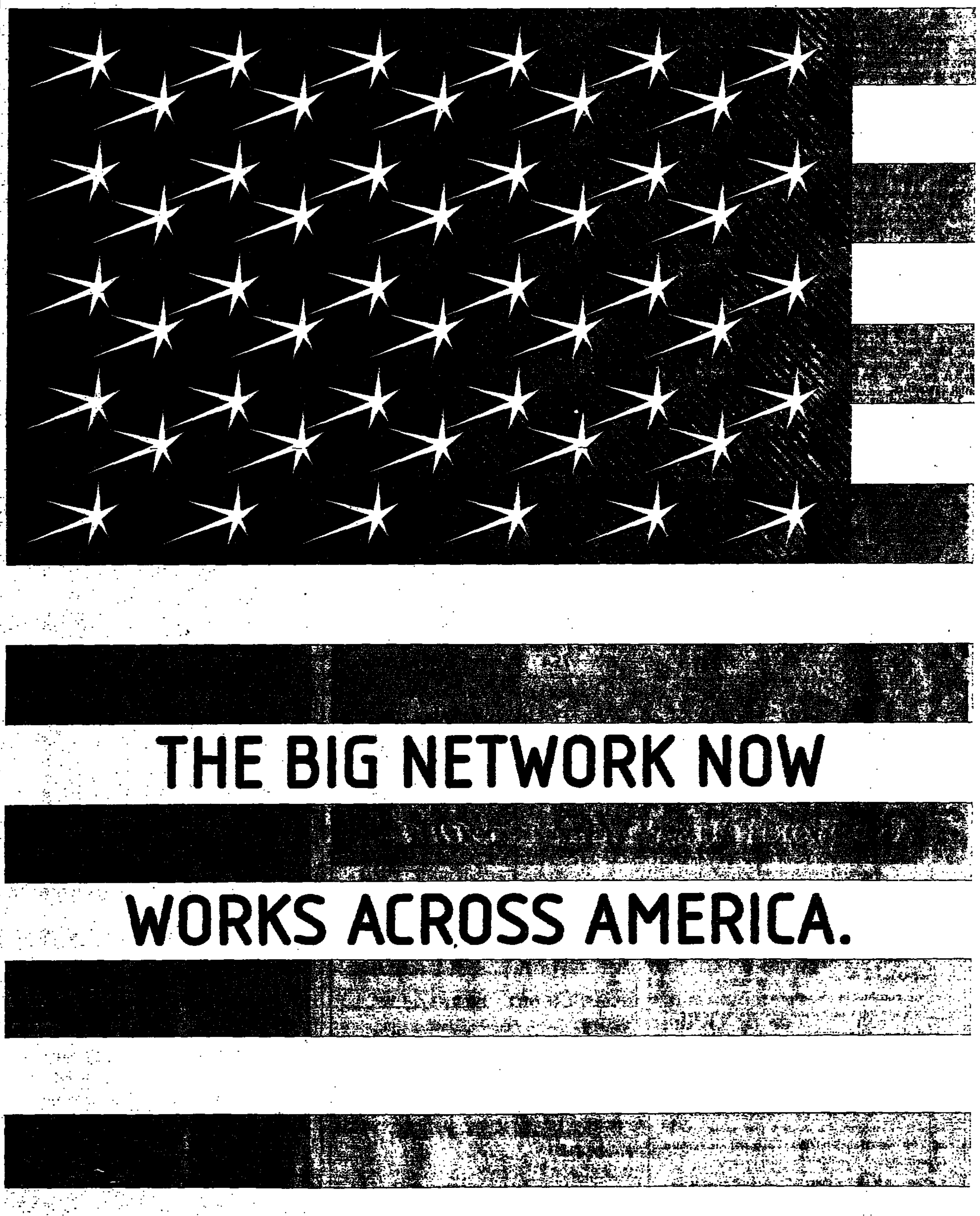

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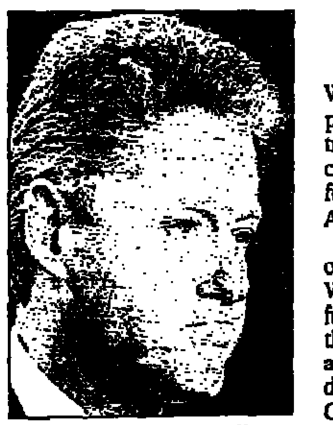
Scrawled note speaks volumes about White House finance scandal



Clinton: ex-aide predicts "a lot of trouble" ahead

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

US COMMENTARY

WITH a single flourish of his presidential pen, Bill Clinton has transformed a hazy story of shady characters and Asian money into a fundraising scandal that every American can understand.

The scrawled approval for the use of the Lincoln bedroom and other White House attractions to raise funds for his re-election has placed the President firmly at the heart of an operation that even his closest defenders find difficult to justify. George Stephanopoulos, the former Clinton aide, is just one who has swiftly acknowledged the damage of these latest disclosures which he says will cause "a lot of trouble over this year for the President".

Firm critics are more forthright. "The Lincoln bedroom is a national treasure. This is going to lead to more outrage at the system," said Jennifer Lamson of the grassroots lobby group, Common Cause.

An early poll published yesterday by *USA Today* indicated that the public is deeply cynical in its assumption that politicians from both parties are corrupt and that money is the inevitable vehicle for access to the system. Mr Clinton's personal involvement is likely to erode his current approval rating of 60 per cent, the highest since he has been in office.

But there is a deeper legal strand to the case which has greater potential to undermine Mr Clinton's position in the Oval Office, a fact that Harold Ickes, the former deputy chief of staff, has so obviously exploited in his release of the documents. For months, the White House has denied that there was any price tag for spending the night at the White House, taking a flight on Air Force One, sipping coffee with the President in the Map Room or for a round of golf or a jog with Mr Clinton.

In spite of the President's insistence that no one was actually promised anything in return for money, there seems no doubt that the White House was used as little more than a Democratic contributors' holiday camp in which donors such as Steven Spielberg, the film director and producer, and Barbra Streisand, the singer and actress, could write a cheque for bed and breakfast. The White House says that Mr Clinton's actions were no different from those of past presidents, both Democratic and Republican. But no chief executive since Richard Nixon has been so closely involved in the complexities of his re-election campaign.

Mr Clinton presided over an operation that may have crossed the legal barriers which are certain to be closely examined by the Justice Department and must place even greater pressure on Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, to appoint an independent prosecutor to investigate. Under American law it is illegal to solicit campaign contributions on federal property, including the offices of the White House. The congressional inquiries into the fundraising scandal, which have become the scourge of Mr Clinton's second term, must also determine whether American policy and influence was in some way sold to the highest bidders.

The White House insists it was vanity rather than any wish to influence policy that drew so many to contribute to the Democratic cause in exchange for "face time" with the President. The fact remains that the Clinton campaign has already returned more than $1 million (£613,500) in funds received from illegal sources.

The President's own national security staff saw little difficulty in permitting access to a number of people with close links to the Chinese administration, including an arms dealer from Beijing.

President's sacked aide spilt beans on sleepover perk

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AS the FBI broadened its investigations into President Clinton's fundraising debacle yesterday, the most asked question in Washington was why one of his oldest allies had spilt the beans.

The shoal of documents disclosing Mr Clinton's eagerness to reward big campaign contributors with overnight stays in the Lincoln bedroom and other White House perks came from Harold Ickes, the President's former deputy chief of staff. Mr Ickes was dumped by Mr Clinton in the wake of last November's election, after a friendship of 25 years, at the insistence of Erskine Bowles, the new White House chief of staff.

Mr Ickes made no secret to friends and colleagues of his anger about the way he had been treated by Mr Clinton after working tirelessly for his re-election. He learnt of his dismissal from a newspaper account that said he was too liberal to work with Republicans in the President's second term. Mr Ickes felt that Mr Clinton showed less concern for him than for his bitter rival, Dick Morris, the disgraced political adviser caught with a prostitute.

The unexpected appearance now of the Ickes files, confirming how consumed the White House had been with raising money, gives rise to widespread speculation that Mr Ickes has exacted his revenge by following Washington's vintage political maxim of "don't get mad, get even".

Mr Ickes, a hardboiled New York lawyer, denied any such motive. "The President is my friend," he told *The Washington Post*. "I have enormous respect and regard for him." It had been an honour to work for him and still was — Mr Ickes has the consolation prize of organising the Group of Seven summit in Denver in June.

Nonetheless, when Mr Ickes turned over his files last week at the request of congressional investigators, he did not seek White House permission. He simply told Clinton aides and gave them copies. The aides then rushed them out, putting their spin on them, before they leaked from Capitol Hill.

Mr Ickes argued that the documents contained "titillating stuff" about money-raising but disclosed nothing improper done by Mr Clinton. "A huge amount of smoke but no fire," Mr Ickes said. As for his own role, he admitted making a bad mistake in faxing instructions on how to obtain a tax deduction to a donor who was offering a gift of $5 million (£3 million).

While headlines continued over the "beds-for-bucks" scheme, the FBI expanded its inquiries into the more serious issue of foreign influence in Democratic fundraising exerted by China and other Asian countries which hoped thereby to influence White House policies.

Louis Freeh, FBI Director, briefed senators on potential involvement by China, a finding that could lead to his requesting the appointment of an independent counsel. However, Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, repeated at a congressional hearing on the affair that she had not seen enough evidence to justify such an appointment.

A key figure in the investigation is Pauline Kanchanalak, a big Democratic contributor who runs the private US-Thailand Business Council. She took five business figures to coffee with Mr Clinton on the day she donated $135,000. They included the top two executives of CP Group, a Thai conglomerate that has extensive business interests in China.

A federal grand jury in Washington has begun secret hearings with evidence from Rawlein Soberano of an Asian-American business association. He said that John Huang, the Democrats' chief Asian fundraiser, had asked him to launder money illegally into the Clinton campaign.

JON LEVY / AFP

Hillary Clinton accepts her non-music Grammy award for the recording of her book *It Takes a Village*. She joked that it was the first time a tone-deaf person had won

Britain's Eric Clapton, who won three Grammys, and Sheryl Crow at the New York awards ceremony

Hillary Clinton and ancient Britons scoop Grammys

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ANCIENT Brits and Americans — living and dead — did well in the 1997 Grammys, pop music's answer to the Oscars.

On a night which saw awards for the First Lady, the late Nat "King" Cole and the veteran Tony Bennett, there were prizes for The Beatles, for *Free as a Bird*, their 1996 song featuring material from the late John Lennon, and three for Eric Clapton for *Change the World*.

The oldsters' awards won respectful applause from the young things at New York's Madison Square Gardens, who clapped as if at a county cricket match.

Bryn Terfel, the Welsh baritone, landed the classical vocalist Grammy for a collection of arias. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the Waynflete Singers won in the best choral album category.

In a shameless publicity stunt, the Grammys gave a prize to Hillary Clinton for the recording she made of her book of cosy liberal orthodoxy, *It Takes A Village*.

When country singer LeAnn Rimes, 14, won the best new artist Grammy she could barely speak for her sobs.

Best single, Eric Clapton, *Change the World*; best album, Celine Dion, *Falling into You*; best male vocalist, Eric Clapton; best female vocalist, Toni Braxton, *Unbreak my Heart*; best pop collaboration, Nat Cole and his daughter Natalie, *When I fall in Love*; best traditional pop album, Tony Bennett, *Here's to the Ladies*; best rock album, Sheryl Crow, *Sheryl Crow*; best pop group, The Beatles, *Free as a Bird*; best contemporary folk album, Bruce Springsteen, *The Ghost of Tom Joad*.

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Wagner soap opera rages over keys to Bayreuth

Family patriarch accused of secretly supporting Hitler

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

TWO angry great-grandchildren of Richard Wagner have launched a new round in the long soap opera family feud over the legacy of the controversial German composer.

Their immediate target is Wolfgang Wagner, the 78-year-old patriarch of the annual Bayreuth festival and edgy controller of Germany's most famous opera house. Ever since Richard died in 1883, a Wagner has run the festival; now the succession struggle is heating up. In books published this week, Gottfried and Nike Wagner — respectively son and niece of Wolfgang — accuse him of concealing his anti-Semitism and of stifling innovation with leaden productions. As far as Nike is concerned, her anthology — entitled *Über Wagner*, Reclam Publishing House, Stuttgart — is a kind of election manifesto. The 51-year-old Vienna-based intellectual is pushing hard to take over from her uncle.

Gottfried's book — *Wer Nicht mit dem Wolf Heult*, Kiepenheuer and Witsch, Cologne — is more of a filial reckoning, a denunciation of an emotionally remote and politically suspect father. Cut off by Wolfgang because of a lecture tour in Israel dedicated to Richard Wagner's anti-Semitism, Gottfried is an outsider in the succession stakes.

Wolfgang presented his credo in an autobiography three years ago in which he barely mentioned his children and played down his intimacy with Hitler. Gottfried, however, is determined not to let his father off the hook and remembers his proud stories. In one, Wolfgang recalls sitting with his brother Wieland at Hitler's feet. "We were squatting around the fireplace and Hitler presented his vision of the cultural future — 'as soon as we have cleared the world of the Bolshevik-Jewish conspiracy, then you, Wieland, will be in charge of the Theatre of the West and you, Wolfgang, will command the Theatre of the East'."

Wolfgang, in a rare chat with his son, explained that Hitler "had conquered unemployment and earned worldwide respect for the German economy". As for the extermination of the Jews, that was Hitler's "only mistake".

Richard Wagner and his descendant Gottfried, who is campaigning to take over the reins at Bayreuth

There can be few surprises left about the Wagners and their anti-Semitism. Richard Wagner's 1850 essay *Jewry in Music* has been excused as a mere reflection of 19th-century anti-Semitism, but it is peppered with snide remarks about Jews.

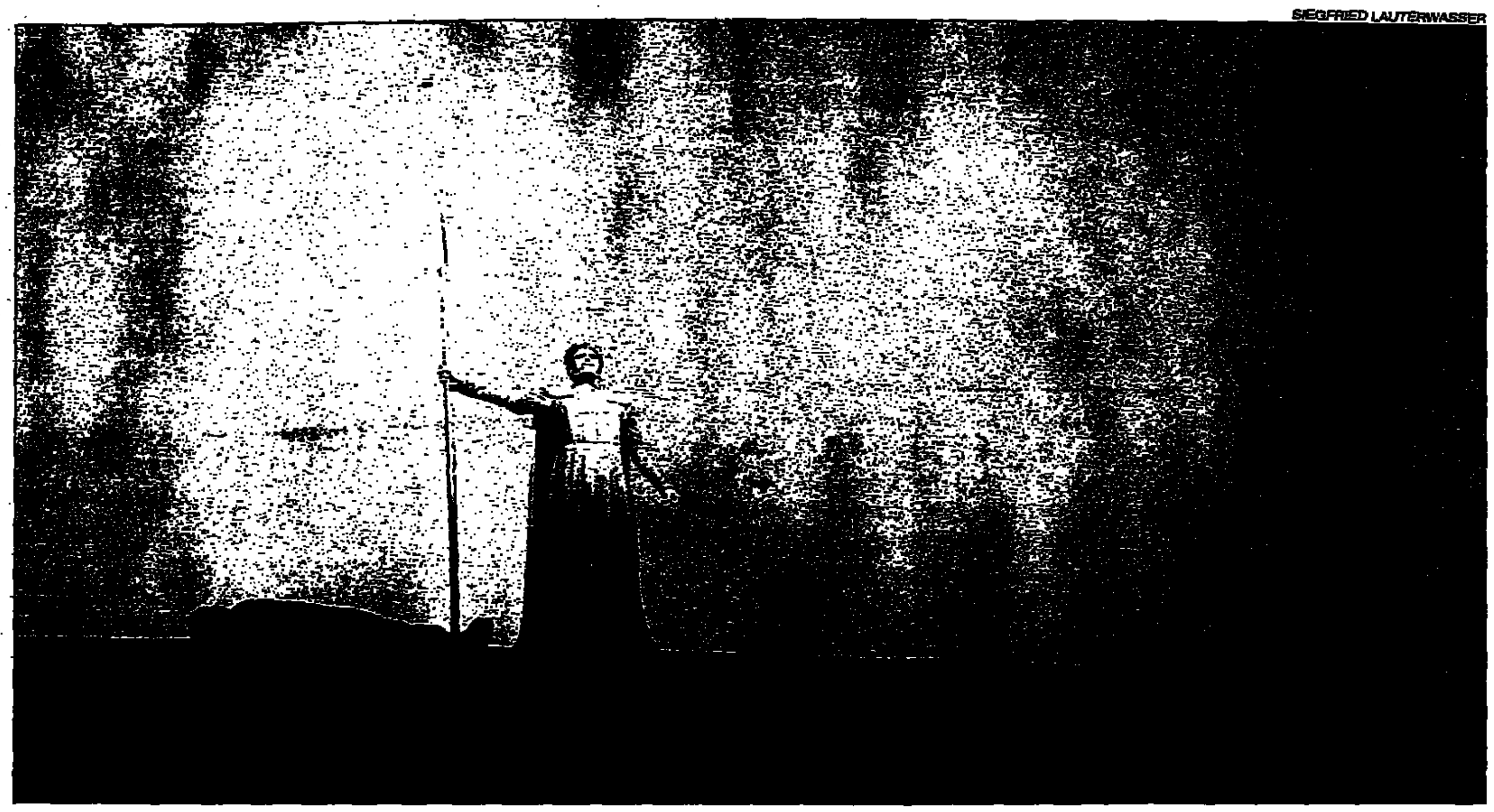
The significance of Gottfried's latest examples of anti-Semitic comments is that Wolfgang has built up his reputation as the man who made a clean break with the past. Conductors of Jewish origin, such as Daniel Barenboim and James Levine, were invited to Bayreuth, and Wolfgang's stolid productions avoided political controversy. Wagner's anti-Semitism does not play a big part in Nike's book, though it helps her cause to have Wolfgang demolished in public. She is the daughter of Wieland whom most critics seem to agree had much more artistic talent than Wolfgang. She accuses her uncle of making a witches' mountain (a *Blocksberg*) out of Bayreuth on which the ghosts of the past are summoned again and again. Nike, whose qualifications are those of a musical critic rather than director, proposed that the Wagner festival be staged every two years instead of annually to allow new ideas to develop.

The conventional comparison of the Bayreuth succession contest is with the antics of the Ewing family in the *Dallas* soap opera. The family, and the plot, are indeed tangled. Wolfgang considers both Nike and her brother, Wolf-Siegfried (a talented stage director), to be disloyal and unworthy of Bayreuth. Even as a child Gottfried was banned from playing with them.

Eva, Wolfgang's daughter by his first marriage, is a talent scout for the Metropolitan Opera in New York but she, too, is not considered a worthy successor by Wolfgang. Gottfried's lasting concern with Wagner's anti-Semitism seems to exclude him. The most likely member of the family to take over after Wolfgang's death is his second wife, Gudrun.

Bayreuth need not be controlled by a Wagner. The festival is managed by a public foundation with an elected board. But five out of 24 seats are reserved for Wagner family members and they, or rather Wolfgang, usually carry the day. His rule is crumbling, however, and like King Lear the king of Bayreuth is stumbling on blindly, banishing his children, disinheriting and pronouncing curses. This, say Wagnerians, will be the year that the fourth generation strikes back.

SIEGFRIED LAUTERWASSER



Wotan, the archetypal Wagnerian role, as portrayed at Bayreuth in the postwar years by the great German bass-baritone, Hans Hotter

Palestinians start Jerusalem protests

From Christopher Walker in Har Homa

PALESTINIANS yesterday launched the first of a series of protests against Israel's decision to build 6,500 Jewish homes on a hillside in occupied east Jerusalem which many fear will culminate in widespread bloodshed when bulldozers begin work next month.

The march, to be followed today by attempts to hold a protest session of Muslim Friday prayers at the spot, was matched by a growing diplomatic offensive against Israel and chilling warnings of new terror attacks by Hamas, the Islamic group behind the suicide bombs that have claimed scores of Jewish lives.

As the Israeli Army completed preparations for a retaliation programme codenamed Operation Field of Thorns, to be put into effect in the event of violent Palestinian reaction, Ehud Olmert, the right-wing Mayor of Jerusalem, gave a defiant press conference on a rocky hillside overlooking Har Homa.

"If someone believes that there is not going to be an appropriate Israeli reaction to any Palestinian violence, he is totally wrong," the Mayor, a leading member of the ruling Likud party and a close confidant of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, said. "Anyone who will use guns in opposition to us will make the mistake of his life. It will blow up the entire peace process."

Leading the Arab condemnation of Israel's decision to start building on Har Homa as soon as the last legal appeals against the construction project are over was King Husain of Jordan, the country that ruled over the hill in question until it was conquered by the Israelis during the 1967 war.

The King, whose brother Prince Hassan cancelled a visit to Tel Aviv planned for tomorrow in protest, told Mr Netanyahu in a letter that the move "could shake confidence in the peace process and arouse feelings of anger that would create violence and threaten the process of peace building".

☐ **Shooting move:** An Israeli military court ruled yesterday that Noam Friedman, 22, a soldier who shot and wounded seven Palestinians in Hebron last month, be treated in a psychiatric hospital and not jailed. *(Reuter)*

Letters, page 19

Pentagon 'UFO' site revealed on film

THE Pentagon is bracing itself for calls from conspiracy theorists after news that Area 51, a top-secret site where the American Government tests stealth aircraft and is alleged to have held captured UFOs, has been revealed on camera (Anjana Ahuja writes).

The film, made in 1964, does not record details of the site but shows a scientist chalking on a blackboard the phrase "move out to Area 51". The authorities have never acknowledged the site, and often deny its existence.

The footage was uncovered by Hugh McDaid while shooting *Robot Warriors*, a documentary on unmanned aircraft.

According to Mr McDaid, the film was a top-secret briefing film for military and intelligence personnel. The scientist shown writing on the blackboard was Clarence "Kelly" Johnson, who designed the Lockheed U2 spy plane.

The refusal of the USAF to confirm or deny anything regarding the site has fuelled speculation that it is a cover for something more sinister than testing new aircraft. Some believe the US Government has captured flying saucers and used the base to conduct experiments on the vehicles and their inhabitants.

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Sleaze allegations grow as French TV chief is charged

From Adam Sage in Paris

FRANCE'S leading television station, TFl, was caught up in corruption allegations yesterday as its chairman was charged with misuse of corporate funds.

In the latest sleaze scandal to hit French public life, Patrick Le Lay was questioned at length by the Versailles-based magistrate, Jean-Marie Charpier, who is investigating claims that TFl diverted money into a secret fund.

M Le Lay was charged along with one of France's leading industrialists, Martin Bouygues, chairman of the construction group, Bouygues, which owns TFl.

Bouygues: his company owns television station

The accusations will fuel the suspicion, shared by many French people, that the country's elite is untrustworthy and incompetent. The claims follow a long list of corruption allegations against leading politicians, media figures and industrialists.

M Charpier suspects that Bouygues companies paid up to Fr5 million (£550,000) into Cerail, a fictitious consultancy, run by Jacques Dupuydauby, the company's former vice-chairman, between 1987 and 1993. It is not known what the secret fund was used for but there has been press speculation that it went to political parties.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s it was commonplace for leading French firms to make clandestine donations to political parties in the hope — usually fulfilled — of receiving favours in return. France has since adopted strict laws designed to limit political financing, although many analysts believe that the parties still manage to get around them.

There have also been suggestions in the media that Bouygues used Cerail to win business contracts with under-the-table payments. At least some of the Fr5 million was channeled into an account in Madrid. Both M Le Lay and M Bouygues deny the charges, saying they knew nothing of the funds paid to Cerail.

The affair is embarrassing for Bouygues, a household name in France, which employs 70,000 people, and for its most prominent subsidiary, TFl. But it is certain to be welcomed by the extreme right-wing National Front, which owes its electoral success in part to its claims that France's rulers are "all corrupt".

The extremist movement tells its white working class electorate that they are the victims of an egotistical elite preoccupied with making money, promoting foreign interests and hiding the truth. "The television lies", is the slogan on one of the Front's posters.

TFl, an independent channel, dominates French television, consistently winning bigger audiences than its publicly-owned rivals, France 2 and France 3.

This is not the first time it has been in legal trouble. Two years ago M Le Lay was questioned over claims that his station bribed officials to be allowed to broadcast the national lottery results. He was released without charge.

M Bouygues was charged with the misuse of corporate funds in 1995 in connection with an investigation into political financing.

Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, TFl's best-known news presenter, was found guilty last year of receiving illegal funds after an inquiry into the same affair.

☐ **Marseilles:** A court yesterday refused to grant Bernard Tapie, the bankrupt businessman and former football boss, day release from prison, wrecking his attempt to star in a second film. Tapie appeared last year in Claude Lelouch's *Hommes Femmes: Mode d'Emploi*. (Reuter)

7,000 mourn murder victims

By Adam Sage

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, was among 7,000 mourners yesterday at the funeral for four young women murdered in northern France this month. President Chirac sent a wreath.

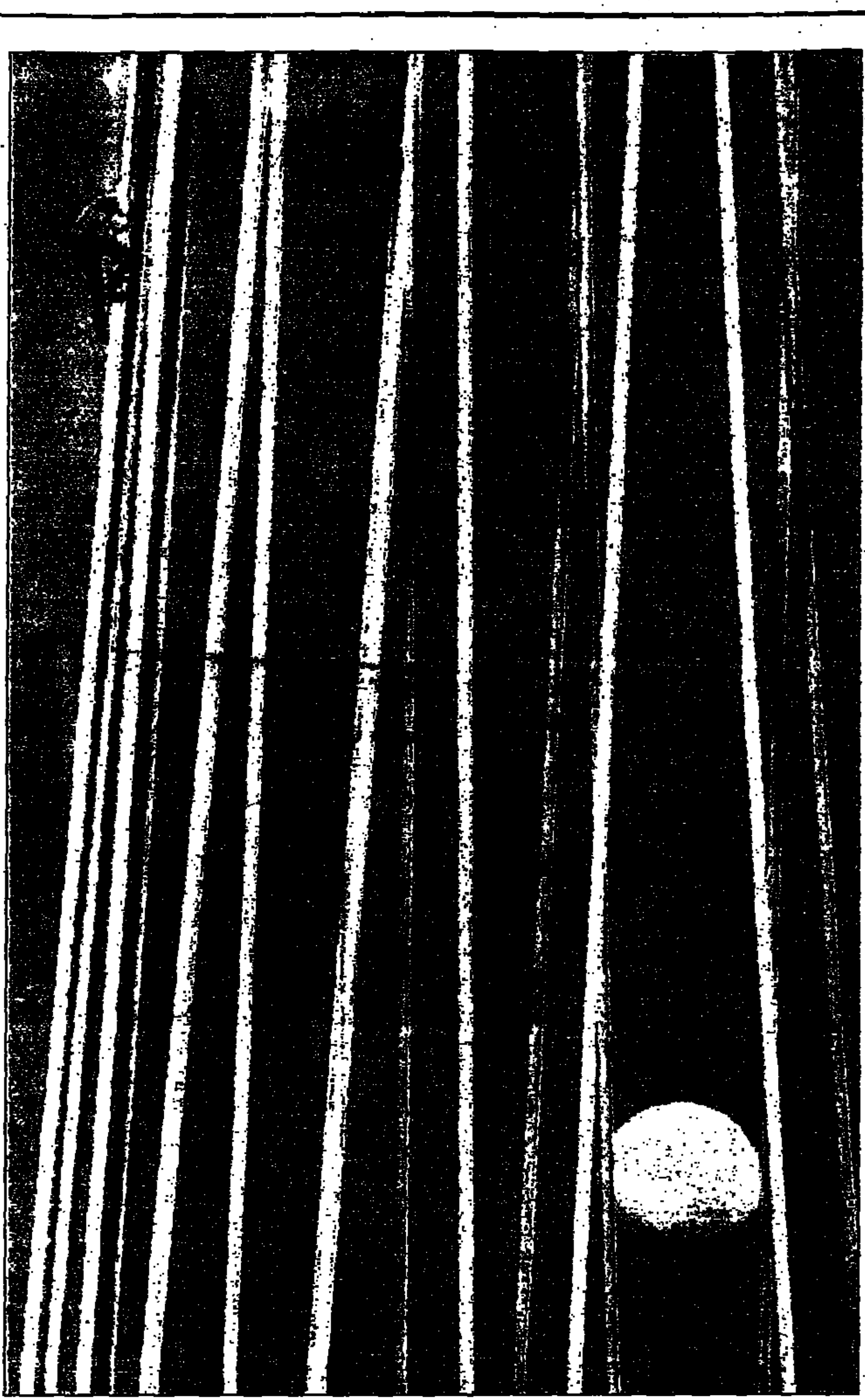
The ceremony brought the women's home town of Boulogne to a standstill. Shops closed, children stood for a minute's silence and local people stopped work to pay their last respects to Isabelle Ruffin, 20, her sister Amélie, 17, Peggy Merlin, 20, and her sister Audrey, 17.

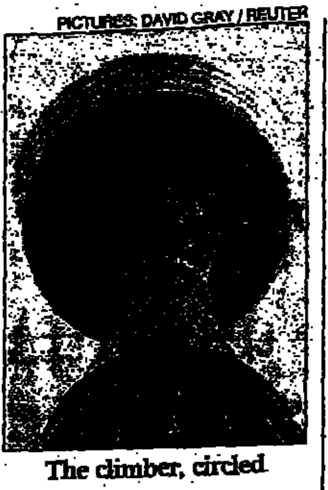
The four were kidnapped, beaten, raped and murdered after an evening at a carnival two weeks ago. Their bodies were discovered last Friday, buried a beach near Boulogne.

Two scrap-iron merchants recently released from prison, Jean-Michel Jourdain, 34, and his brother Jean-Louis, 38, have been charged with the murders. They deny the allegations, each saying the other was responsible.

As details of the women's ordeal have been disclosed, there have been protest marches and petitions calling for a return of the death penalty. Yesterday, however, mourners respected a call for calm from Laure Lamotte, adoptive mother of the Ruffin sisters. "I want reflection and prayer worthy of the girls," she said.

PICTURES: DAVID GRAY / REUTER


The moon shows through the cables on Sydney's Centrepoint as Alain Robert climbs


The climber, circled

Swoop by police foils daredevil climber

From Reuter in Sydney

A FRENCH "spiderman" who has climbed some of the world's tallest structures — including London's Canary Wharf tower — was caught in a police web yesterday half way up Sydney's Centrepoint Tower.

Alain Robert, 34, a rock climber from southern France, crawled up the tower's twisted outer cables soon after dawn. But as a police helicopter circled overhead, he was nabbed as he passed a maintenance platform halfway up the 1,066ft tower, Australia's tallest building.

Police handcuffed him and took him away. He is to appear in court today charged with illegally climbing a building.

M Robert has scaled high buildings around the world, including the Eiffel Tower, the Golden Gate Bridge and Hong Kong's Far East Finance Centre. He is regularly arrested and fined.

Spectators look up to the "spiderman" as he heads towards arrest halfway up Australia's tallest tower

Gaullists try to rein in power of MEPs

By Adam Sage

FRANCE moved yesterday to rein in the European Parliament after President Chirac denounced MEPs for interfering in the country's internal affairs.

The initiative came after widespread anger about a European Parliament resolution urging Paris to abandon an immigration Bill. In a radio interview yesterday, Hervé de Charette, the Foreign Minister, said he wanted his European partners to review the Parliament's powers.

His comments will delight the Eurosceptic wing of the ruling Gaullist movement, but anger Bonn, which wants to give the European Parliament greater influence. M de Charette said: "The Parliament must exercise its powers, but only those, and not interfere in the French process." On Wednesday, he had provoked a diplomatic incident when he said that the legislature was "not yet a parliament worthy of the name".

José-Maria Gil Robles, the European Parliament's President, who is a Spanish conservative, promptly cancelled a meeting with M de Charette. The MEP had already found himself on the receiving end of one of M Chirac's celebrated outbursts this week. At what was supposed to be an informal discussion, the French President harangued Señor Gil Robles over "a manifest interference in France's internal affairs".

His anger came after Elisabeth Guigou, France's Socialist former European Affairs Minister, now an MEP, persuaded the Parliament to condemn Paris's plans to crack down on illegal immigration. The Government's proposals are at the centre a national debate in France, with actors and intellectuals leading demonstations over what they denounce as a xenophobic Bill. The actress Catherine Deneuve was among the public figures who said they would rather break the law than comply with it.

M Chirac had stayed silent during the protests, but was offended when the European Parliament attacked the immigration proposals in a resolution on "racism, xenophobia and the extreme Right".

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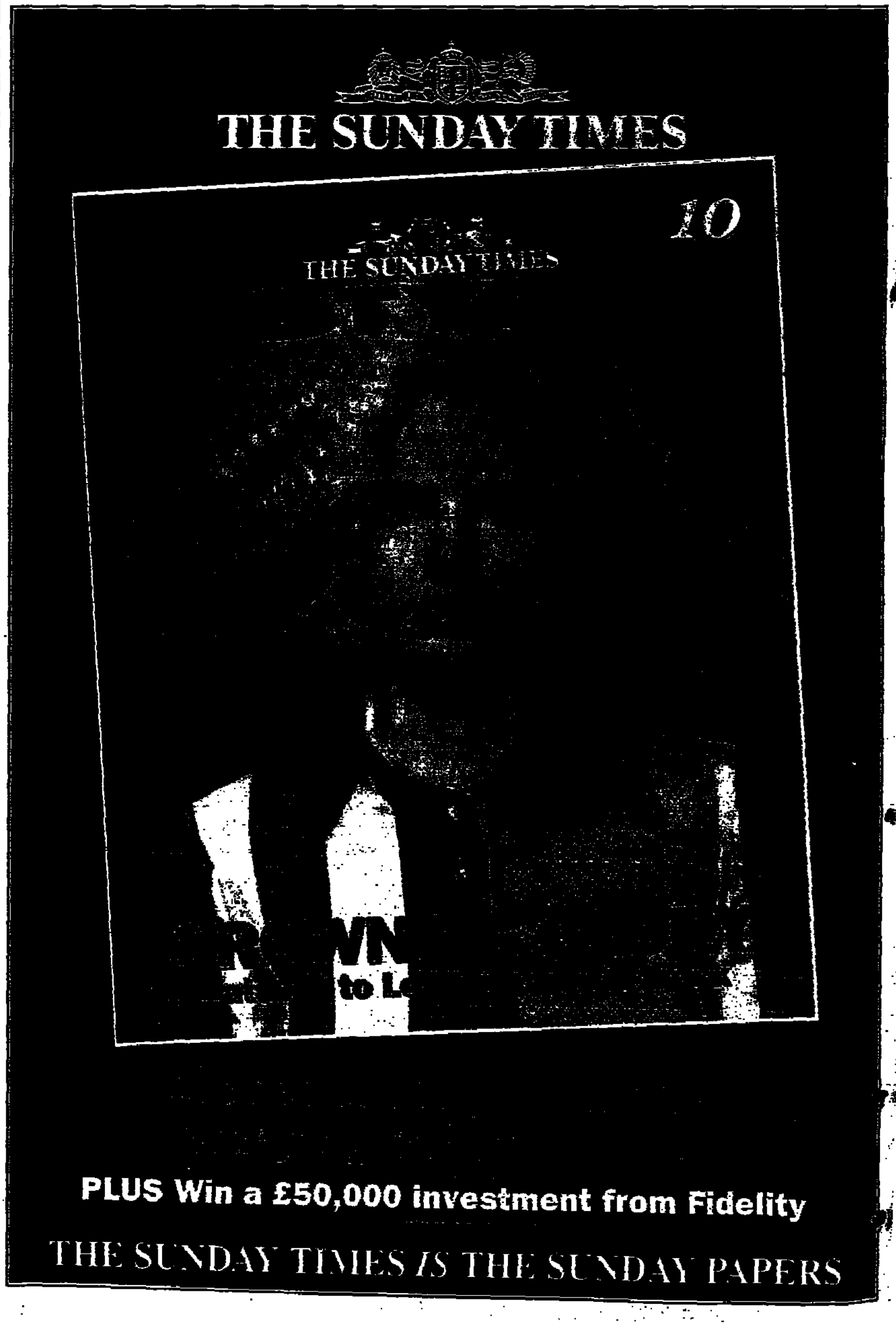

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Dutch republican cabal breaks taboo in attack on royalty

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

THE House of Orange, one of the most popular and placid monarchies in Europe, is facing a republican assault from a powerful group of Dutch businessmen and notables.

Fifteen prominent Dutchmen, including a former government minister and heads of major financial institutions, have formed a secret association to promote the republican cause, breaking the country's cast-iron taboo on criticising the Royal Family, according to *De Volkskrant* newspaper. At least five of them have received honours from Queen Beatrix and one was a former member of a royal commission.

Led by Pierre Vinken, the former chairman of Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, the Republikeins Genootschap believes "a hereditary monarchy, with a divine right [to rule] has no place in a political democracy", according to excerpts from the association's documents.

Founded last autumn, the association had intended to wait at least two years before going public, waiting until the monarchy "overestimates [its position] and makes a fatal error".

"A republican state is the only major taboo left in The Netherlands," Mr Vinken wrote in a letter on the association's purpose. "Politicians, both on the left and right, are without exception either monarchists or dare not say they are otherwise. Against this background, it is vital the Republikeins Genootschap exists to give a clear if weak signal that will perhaps cause younger generations to think again [about the monarchy]." Several of the association's members have tried to play down its purpose, saying it was "just a dining and discussion group". Three others, including Pieter Korteweg, head of Robeco, Europe's biggest investment fund group, have resigned their membership.

A spokesman for the House of Orange declined detailed comment on the association, but said: "Everybody in The Netherlands has the freedom to express their opinions and to hold discussion meetings."

Nevertheless, the revelation of the association's existence and its high-profile members comes at a very sensitive time for Queen Beatrix, who is still trying to paper over the cracks caused by a recent row about her political influence.

She was accused of overstepping the constitutional mark last autumn by allegedly forcing the removal of the Dutch Ambassador to South Africa because he was living with a woman who was not his wife. It was also widely assumed that she was behind the recent Culture Ministry decision to withdraw state subsidies from a play which satirised the Royal Family.

Under the constitution, the Queen should be even more remote from politics than the British monarch. But Queen Beatrix, 59, affectionately referred to as Trix by the public, has never hidden her strong moral views. She is opposed to homosexual marriage, which parliament wants to legalise, is a fervent environmentalist, and regularly urges the country to be more tolerant of the disadvantaged.

During almost 17 years on the throne, she has protected the House of Orange from the public eye better than any of her European counterparts. But now the shield appears to be disintegrating, not least because of the antics of Crown Prince Willem-Alexander.

The Queen's popularity — she regularly scores 80 per cent in the polls — has been founded on a down-to-earth regal style, endearing herself to the public by being a keen cyclist and planting trees. Willem-Alexander, the first male heir to the throne in 116 years, has been involved in romantic exploits with commoners and seems to prefer fast cars, planes and speed-skating to royal duties. Together with the recent raking over of old scandals, his behaviour has reinforced republican feelings. The press has also become aggressive.

Beatrix: lost popularity over political influence

RAFIQUR RAHMAN/REUTER

Prince Charles watches yesterday as water is collected from a pump given by ActionAid, of which he is patron

Prince praises British aid workers during visit to Bangladeshi slum

BY GLEN OWEN

HUNDREDS of Bangladeshi slum dwellers turned out to see the Prince of Wales yesterday as he witnessed at first hand the conditions in which thousands of the country's poorest live during a visit to Tikkapara outside Dhaka.

The Prince, on the second day of a three-day visit to the country — his first — was driven down a bumpy mud and brick road to Tikkapara to see a project at the shanty town funded by ActionAid, the British charity of which he is patron.

Picking his way through the rubbish, he praised the efforts of the relief workers, saying, "I realise what an enormous problem and huge challenge it is in this part of the world".

They told him that the region's slumdwellers often live six to a house. Their homes are usually no more than two-room huts cobbled together from bamboo straws, old plastic sheeting and rags, and act as slim protection against the floods and cyclones that frequently hit the area.

He also heard about the efforts to improve sanitation. With up to 20 families sometimes sharing a single lavatory, and limited supplies of clean, piped water, disease is widespread.

Prince Charles later visited Sylhet, a remote tea-growing area 210 miles from Dhaka, where he told a reception given by the town council: "I feel very much at home here as a result of a large number of people from Sylhet who are now residents in Britain." Officials say about 300,000 people from Sylhet have settled in Britain.

The Prince switched on a satellite telecommunications station built by British Telecom on the town's outskirts. Nargis Islam, a Sylhet resident whose daughter lives in London, said about 90 per cent of families in Sylhet have one or more relatives living in Britain and that the station would help them to keep in contact.

Before leaving Dhaka, where he had arrived late on Wednesday, the Prince had talks with President Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban Presidential Palace and with Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Prime Minister.

US Army 'pursuing witch-hunt over gays'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MORE homosexuals and lesbians are being discharged from the US armed forces under President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy than before it came into effect, a study showed yesterday.

The Servicemembers Legal Defence Network, a group providing lawyers for military personnel accused of homosexuality, said that the spirit of the law was being broken by a deliberate pattern of witch-hunts throughout the ranks, including seizures of diaries and threats of prison against those accused unless they betrayed other gays.

Last year 850 people were discharged by the Pentagon for homosexual activities, compared with 682 in 1993 when there was still officially no tolerance for homosexuals and the armed forces were larger.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy was a shaky compromise between Mr Clinton, who had campaigned on a promise to end the ban on homosexuals in the services, and those in the Pentagon and Congress who were determined to keep the ban. The new law continues to ban gays in uniform, but bars the active hunting down of them by military commanders.

Yet that is still happening, according to yesterday's report. It said the new policy had evolved into a Machiavellian system where the end justified any means of "ferreting out all gay men and women who serve our country". Discharges fell disproportionately hard on women who make up 13 per cent of the armed forces but accounted for nearly a third of the dismissals. Women were often accused of being lesbians after rebuffing male sexual advances or reporting sexual abuse, the study said.

William Cohen, US Defence Secretary, denied that the growing number of dismissals warranted a change in policy. He promised, though, that if he found there was active pursuit and prosecution of gays, it would be halted. In Congress, 36 members demanded that he take immediate action to protect gays and lesbians from harassment.

Defence chief faces sack after Yeltsin orders end to 'whining'

Moscow: Political speculation about an expected government reshuffle intensified in Moscow yesterday (Robin Lodge writes). The position of the Defence Minister appeared the most precarious after President Yeltsin's call this week for drastic changes.

Mr Yeltsin, who earlier had castigated Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister, for failing to deal with the problem of non-payment of state wages and pensions, turned his ire on Wednesday night on Igor Rodionov, the Defence Minister, ordering him to "stop whining" and get on with implementing long-awaited military reforms.

The press indulged in much speculation yesterday about the likelihood of ministerial dismissals, with many focusing on General Rodionov and Viktor Ilyushin, a former Yeltsin aide promoted last year to First Deputy Prime Minister with special responsibility for social policy. "Ilyushin is virtually a political corpse," the Moscow daily *Moskovsky Komsomolets* wrote, citing unnamed sources within the Government.

Mr Yeltsin's assault on his Defence Minister was prompted by clashes between General Rodionov and Yuri Baturin, head of the Defence Council, over how best to deal with a catastrophic decline in Russia's armed forces. General Baturin has called for radical defence cuts as a first step to reforms; General Rodionov is demanding more government funds to guarantee living standards of servicemen and restore morale. He has also accused General Baturin of playing down the problem.

The Kremlin reprimanded the Defence Minister for speaking out and called on the two men to work together. "The President knows how difficult it is now for the men in epaulettes. But whining will not help matters; concrete actions are needed," it said in a statement. Mr Yeltsin is due to give a state of the nation address next Thursday, during which he is expected to announce any changes in the Government.

Earlier this week there were rumours that Mr Chernomyrdin was himself under threat, but it is widely felt that his position — bolstered by four years of unswerving loyalty to Mr Yeltsin — is secure.

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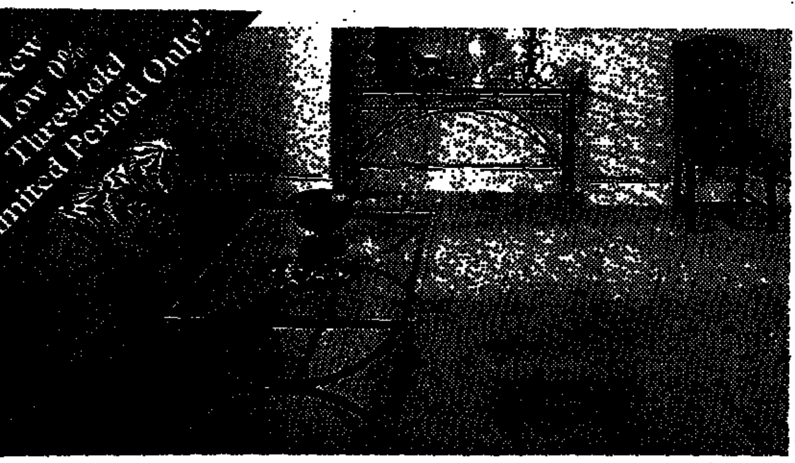

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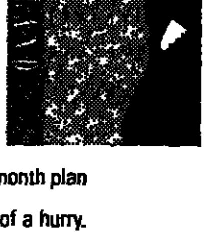

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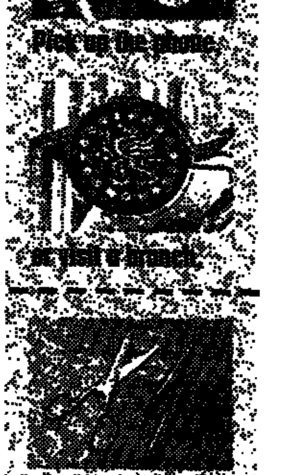

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When fashion designers' parties are the measure of a capital's cool

Naomi Campbell with Joaquim Cortes at the Miu Miu party, which was held at The Naval and Military Club in Piccadilly during London Fashion Week

Exhausted and all partied out — at the end of London Fashion Week, Style Editor **Grace Bradberry** finds designers just want to have fun

Ever since *Newsweek* produced their "Cool Britannia" issue, London's resurgence as a fashion capital has been a media fact.

This month's *Vanity Fair* rams home the message with the original strapline "London Swings Again" below a picture of Patsy Kensit in a black bra, and Liam Gallagher, swathed in a Union Jack and showing off his armpit.

But no matter how much hyperbole enters the headlines, nor how outlandish the venue for Alexander McQueen's catwalk show, there can only be one true barometer of a capital's cool — the parties.

The pace was set last season by the American designer Donna Karan, who blew half a million pounds, converting a Shepherds Bush warehouse into the sort of place Karan would choose to live — all monotone Moroccan with hundreds of candles and cream floor cushions.

But there has been nothing much since. The opening of Calvin Klein's Bond Street store is still months away, and Versace's Rock And Royalty party, which might have upstaged anything in London Fashion Week, was abandoned when Diana, Princess of Wales, took umbrage at the contents of the accompanying book, for which she had written a forword, and refused to attend.

Many in the fashion world will have breathed a sigh of relief that Versace's £100-a-ticket bash was cancelled. Not only is Versace renowned for throwing *thoroughly* tacky parties, but they might also have been forced to pay — and there is nothing that industry insiders loathe more.

The perfect party in the eyes of the fashion world was probably that thrown by Donna Karan. She carefully delineated the status of its members, inviting "front row" fashion editors to an intimate dinner for 300, where they could mingle with celebrities and supermodels, before 500 of their less distinguished peers were allowed in for the after-dinner party.

By contrast, the Miu Miu party on Sunday, which was *the* event of London Fashion Week, was superficially a democratic affair. The host, Miuccia Prada, was once a member of the Italian Communist Party, and is what counts in fashion as an "intellectual". She is famous for leading the move away from obvious status symbols — the gold-chained Chanel handbag — to less obvious ones — her own black nylon bags, bearing a discreet but instantly recognisable triangle logo.

Her party for 1,000, held at The In and Out Club (The Naval and Military Club) in Piccadilly, was planned as the very antithesis of a Versace bash. The theme was a debutante's first party — though how many debutantes' parents are now prepared to spend £200,000 moving in antique furniture, planting ivy in the courtyard and flying a cocktail mixer in from New York is questionable.

About 600 of the guests were from the fashion industry. Vivienne Westwood, whose show had preceded Miu Miu, looked especially smug, having robbed Prada of publicity by using 13-year-olds on the catwalk. The shoe designer Patrick Cox was there, as was Selina Blow, wearing one of her own velvet coats.

The remaining 400 guests were friends of Miuccia — a gaggle of Italians who made their way swiftly to the restaurant — and assorted hip people drawn largely from the film and music industries. Naomi Campbell arrived with her current boyfriend, the flamenco dancer Joaquim Cortes, and again disappeared into the restaurant where she dined with Miuccia.

Indeed, as celebrities arrived, they just as soon disappeared into the dining room. It was only when lowlier guests tried to penetrate this inner sanctum that the flawed nature of democracy became clear. Anxious to please the VIPs, the maitre d', borrowed from the London restaurant Quo Vadis, turned most others away, suggesting they return after midnight on the off-chance that a table might become free.

'Fashion parties should chill out – I don't mean with drugs or alcohol – people should loosen up and talk to each other'

Later in the evening, the Prada team themselves became victims of celebrity hauteur when The Artist Formerly Known As Prince settled into the red smoking-room, surrounded himself with bodyguards, and refused to let any of them come near.

This, and the *impossibility* of securing a table, provided ample topics of conversation when alternative topics — was that Damien Hirst? (it was); had the McQueen ticket arrived yet? (it hadn't); had the dress been bought at discount or cost price? (no industry insider ever pays the full whack) — had been exhausted.

Conversation was aided by the huge supply of alcohol. This was not an event at which to order spritzers. Instead, the evening virtually swam in Louis Roederer champagne, washed down with pink Litchfield gin, Mai Tais and Bourbon Sours. Upstairs, just before the dancefloor (tiny fashion people don't dance), was the cocktail bar, manned by Eugene, flown in specially from the Pravda bar in New York. The speciality was something called Carol Channing (Mad About Millie), vodka-based, like all Eugene's cocktails, mixed with raspberry, which would appear to be the new cranberry juice.

Contrary to what you might think, it is not the done thing to wear Miu Miu to the Miu Miu party. As one fashion editor remarked: "If you must wear the designer's clothes, at least make it the main line."

Instead, guests wore Dolce & Gabbana — rose-print slip dresses over coloured bras — mainline Prada — one guest wore a Chinese print jacket and skirt, exactly as it was shown on the catwalk — or anonymous black or grey slip dresses, whose origins would be recognisable only to the cognoscenti.

Just in cast anyone might fail to recognise her, Tara Palmer-Tomkinson wore her trademark black dress with the cutaway front, as seen at the head of her *Sunday Times* column. She wore it again on Tuesday night to shoe designer Jimmy Choo's soirée at the Wellington Club in Knightsbridge.

Held on the same night as the Antonio Berardi show, the Berardi party, another bash thrown by the Spanish designer Amaya Arzuaga, and the opening of the Antonio Lopez show at the Royal College of Art, Jimmy's party faced some pretty stiff competition.

Tamara Beckwith was one of the few to wear Choo's shoes — Tara and her friend Lucy Sykes, a stylist in New York, confessed that they had meant to borrow some but had been too disorganised.

Mandy Smith, who had arrived from the Jerry Maguire premiere, declared that wearing the designer's own label was "naff", before adding that she had preferred the previous party: "Fashion parties should chill out and I don't mean with drugs and alcohol — people should loosen up and talk to each other."

But conversation takes time, and those who really count often don't stay long. Helena Christensen, who modelled in the Antonio Berardi show, was barely at his party in Legends nightclub, Mayfair, long enough to kiss a few make-up artists. But then, the Berardi party was not a classic fashion event — after the first free brandy (the designer is sponsored by Courvoisier) you actually had to pay for drinks. A tonic water alone cost £1.80, a bottle of house wine £14.

And so the week goes on. On Wednesday night the Irish designer John Rocha threw a party, last night Jasper Conran held a small soirée for his friends. Tonight *Vogue* rounds off the week with a large bash at Nobu, in the fashion crowd's favourite new hotel, The Metropolitan on Old Park Lane. It is an event only for the brave, with a dress code that states, unequivocally, "glamorous".

But then if Britain's most influential fashion magazine is to support the British fashion industry, it could do worse than create a desperate need for dresses that would have no place in any other walk of life.

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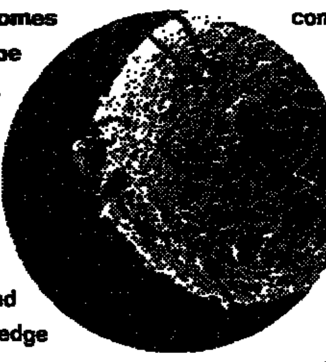

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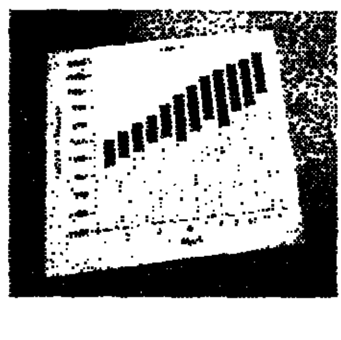

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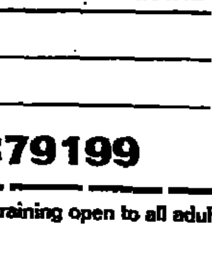

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PETER NICHOLLS

Sam Mendes on directing, learnt by experience and observation: "It combines amateur psychology, sports coaching, visual art. You become an intellectual and visual magpie"

Theatre's hot ticket

Sam Mendes is young, sexy, and already one of our most accomplished theatre directors, but from the beginning he has made his own luck

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

It is tempting to see Sam Mendes, the theatre's blue-eyed *wunderkind*, as the bachelor thirty-something hero of *Company*, (the Stephen Sondheim musical he directed, to be televised in *Performance* on BBC2 tomorrow night) who observes his married friends and reflects on the difficulty of commitment, and his own loneliness. Mendes has no aversion to marriage, but has avoided it so far. When he and Jane Horrocks were an item, and I interviewed Jane, she said: "Do we 'ave ter tark about Sam?" Not the words of an imminent bride, I thought. That is now over, but they remain good friends.

It would be hard not to be friends with Sam, a young man (31) full of charm and quick intelligence. His meteoric success cannot be due entirely to luck, steely ambition or even talent; he is good with people, too.

The name Mendes is Portuguese. His forefathers sailed to Trinidad in a banana boat from Madeira, and his grandfather, the novelist Alfred Mendes, started the literary magazine *The Beacon* with V. S. Naipaul and C. R. James. Alfred, educated at the Quaker Friends' School in Saffron Walden, was a character, a carouser, a raconteur, a womaniser. Sam, browsing with his father in a second-hand bookshop once, found, in Owen Rutter's *If Crab No Walk. A Traveller in the West Indies*, seven pages on his grandfather who, Rutter said, "introduced me to every brothel in Port of Spain". "He was still the same at 80," Sam says.

When Sam was 14, his mother took him from Oxford, where he attended Magdalen College School, to Stratford to see his O-level set text, *The Merchant of Venice* with David Suchet. His mother says he never spoke to her at all that day: "I was uncomfortable at 14, an only child out at the theatre with my mother, having to wear a tie, the badge of slavery." Later he sat on the floor at The Other Place, captivated by Helen Mirren as Cleopatra in her excitingly diaphanous gown. "The theatre became a stabilising influence in a rather unstable childhood." (His parents divorced when he was five.)

But young Sam fixed his own luck: in his gap year he worked at the Guggenheim in Venice, but by the time he arrived at Peterhouse, Cambridge ("a very tie-wearing college") he'd switched to English. He put on a college production of a David Halliwell play and knew by day one of rehearsals that directing would be his game.

Having graduated with a first, he was given a job at Chichester by John Gage, gratefully mopping the stage for £50 a week and being allowed to direct Chekhov's *Swansong and the Bear* and *The Marriage Proposal*, for one night only. "I tried so hard to make it work, I kept the cast at it way into the night." Rave reviews ensued. Gage gave him, at 23, the newly built Minerva Theatre to play with.

So he became "this wonderful new young chap Sam Mendes". He did *London Assurance* with Paul Eddington, *The Cherry Orchard* with Judi Dench — casting people he had worshipped on television. He directed *Kean* with Derek Jacobi; Ralph Fiennes and Amanda Root in *Troilus and Cressida* for the RSC. Then along came *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*.

This quirky concoction sprang from Jane Horrocks's gift for impersonating singers in a voice that erupted unnervingly from a flat-chested waif. Michael Codron sent Jim Cartwright's embryo script to Mendes; rehearsals were chaotic, as the play was written while they worked, and Mendes says it was difficult to rein in. It remains — though about 20 minutes too long — one of those unforgettable theatrical events of the 1990s.

"I first met Jane in the form of a cassette tape. 'Hello Sam,' (he mimicks Jane Horrocks's broad Lancashire). 'This is my tape. Here's Judy Garland.... This is Billie Holliday ... Piaf ... Gracie Fields.' Laughing the whole time." They had supper in this very restaurant (the Mezzanine at the National) and after "circling round each other warily" were a couple by the time he directed her as Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*. They never shared a home, but Mendes took Jane to Trinidad to meet his relations and she took him to Rawtenstall, Lancashire, to meet hers. It was not such a culture shock: he'd lived in Manchester when his father taught English at the university, and his stepmother is a Mancunian. But the two were chalk and cheese. Jane Horrocks is not really like Ab Fab's Bubble, but she is no great reader, while Sam's cottage, a former almshouse near Oxford, is lined with books.

'I'd have been spat out at 45, blinking in the sunlight'

He bought that after going commercial: he makes "absurd" sums of money from his long-running *Oliver!* at the Palladium. On the other hand, in his mid-twenties he directed at three of the country's major companies (the National, the RSC and the Young Vic) in one year for a total of £15,000.

There is a mystique about the bizarre craft of directing. It is invisible but noticeable, and cannot be taught except by experience and observation. "It combines amateur psychology, sports coaching, visual art. You become an intellectual and visual magpie." For *The Glass Menagerie* he got deep into prewar New Orleans. I left him browsing through an American academic's thesis on racism in *Othello*. His *Othello* (or "Othella" as the BBC's handout has it) will open at the National in September.

Directing is both a solitary and a sociable life. "But I'm a team player," he says. I am told he wields a useful bat for The Gaieties, Harold Pinter's cricket team. He is also conscious of the "ultimate vanity" of acting. "Would you be an actor? That neurotic, paranoia-inducing profession?" But he acknowledges that a first night has the emotional impact of a car crash. "Even I, sitting in the bar nursing my drink, am paralysed with fear, and I'm not even on the stage."

Sam Mendes and the Donmar, named after Donald Albery and Margot Fonteyn and known as "the sexiest space in London", are now an institution. He has become one of the new Labour entrepreneurs, grateful for Arts Council grants but also adept at wooing private funding. "You know the Tories, the most destructive influence on the arts, have been in power since I was 14? I pray Labour gets in." He commissions new work, but "unless the material is better than you, it's not worth working on", and says it is one thing to visualise a historical period on stage, but quite another to imagine and reinvent it from the inside —as novelists such as Barry Unsworth, Patrick Susskind, and the new bestseller Andrew Miller can. Mendes's next show will be a musical, *The Fix*, a dark political comedy from New York: expect more House Full boards to go up.

Meanwhile tomorrow night viewers can see, on BBC2, the Donmar production of *Company*, one of last year's hot tickets with its haunting songs (*Barcelona*, *Little Things We Do Together*, *Not Getting Married Today* etc). It will be followed, on Satutrday nights, by Kevin Elyot's *My Night With Reg*; Fiona Shaw as *Richard II*; Arthur Miller's *Broken Glass*.

Purists recoil at the idea of televising theatrical productions. But doesn't it make sense? In New York, the Museum of Modern Art keeps an archive of such tapes — and would not posterity love to see Garrick, or Ellen Terry, or Gielgud's Hamlet on stage?

Besides, having often paid £100 for my family to see a play about which the critics have been all too kind, I wish that we had watched it in comfort at home: at least you can switch off. And one night's television audience of millions would take a 14-year run in the West End to achieve.

The Donmar has acquired its own special buzz, like the Royal Court and the Almeida — and Mendes says he can't imagine anywhere he would rather operate.

Not even the National? He was invited to apply for Richard Eyre's job, soon to be Trevor Nunn's, but he rightly declined. It came too soon. "It would have consumed ten years of my life, and there are many things I don't possess to keep a perspective on a job like this. I don't have a family or a home base.

"I'd have been spat out at 45, blinking in the sunlight. I would love to run a big theatre some time. But I have many other things to do first — films, musicals, opera . . ."

A corner of Paris that remains forever England

Joseph Connolly on a shop the French have taken to heart

British designers such as John Galliano and Alexander McQueen may or may not be taking Paris by storm, but what is absolutely sure is that there is a little corner of Paris that truly has been England for the past 75 years. The shirtmaker Hilditch & Key is the oldest English shop in the capital, and beautifully situated on the Rue de Rivoli, directly opposite the Place de la Concorde.

What is quite startling about this 1920s establishment, however, is the way it has become adopted and adored by the very cream of French society, politics, arts and aristocracy — to say nothing of a clutch of the most internationally famous French designers of all.

Fan: Schiffer

During the first week of this year, Edouard Balladur — an old customer — strolled into the shop and selected half a dozen shirts. A recent cover of *Le Figaro* shows him wearing a Hilditch shirt, cravat and very fetching multicolour striped alpaca cardigan. But it is the designers' vote that really counts. Karl Lagerfeld has all his shirts hand-made by Hilditch & Key, whose files are bulging with handwritten letters from him, praising the perfection of the product.

Most of the shirts sold are ready-made, but if you do go for bespoke, then you are buying the best in the world: even the buttonholes are sewn entirely by hand — and you simply don't encounter that, these days, outside Savile Row, and then only with the suits. Lagerfeld is not the only person at Chanel who finds H&K irresistible. The women's clothes — shirts, scarves, sweaters, wraps and the like — are superb, and the shop has many female fans — Elle Macpherson, Claudia Schiffer, Jane Birkin — even Paloma Picasso. The shop is managed by Bruce Philipps, who has been with the company for 14 years, and he makes no secret of which of his illustrious customers he admires the most: none other than Yves Saint Laurent. "In my view," says Mr Philipps, "everything that man touches turns to gold — he is the most perfect designer of all." Maybe so, but he can't be too enamoured of shirts with the YSL label — he makes sure that his own come from Hilditch & Key.

This quintessentially English institution was founded in 1899 in Jermyn Street in London — there are two shops there still, a third having opened last year in Sloane Street. There is also a mail order service and its produce finds its way into top stores around the world, notably Saks Fifth Avenue. The business must have prospered very early on because in the early 1920s it opened its Paris shop — not a thing that small English companies were noted for doing. The merchandise in the Paris shop is rather more daring than in its London counterparts — cashmere sweaters (a firm favourite) in strong and vivid colours, luxurious cashmere and wool dressing gowns and shirts with a touch more pizazz.

It is impossible to think of any other non-French shop that has anything like such a hold on Paris as Hilditch & Key — most of the people who make Paris what it is walk through its doors. Hilditch & Key goes about its business with rather more subtlety than the newly elevated breed of British couturiers, but certainly the approach is arresting — H&K has *le tout Paris* both collared and cuffed.

- *Hilditch & Key is at 25 Rue de Rivoli (Place de la Concorde) 75001 Paris. Also at 37 and 73 Jermyn Street, London SW1 and 131 Sloane Street, London SW1.*

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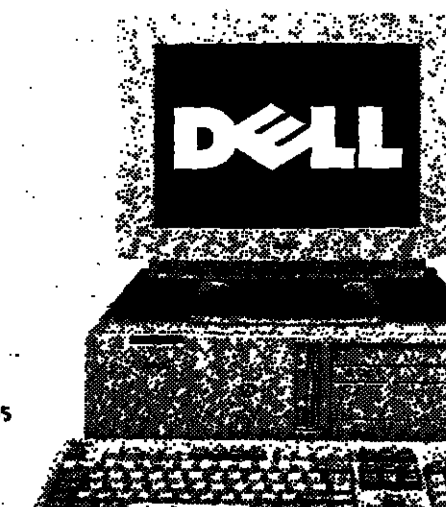

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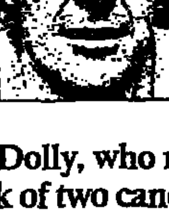
Philip Howard



■ After Dolly, who next? I can think of two candidates for cloning

If we are going to clone the treasures of our human resources, Ted Heath should be the first. He will just have to spare us a few adult cells from somewhere for the heritage preservation industry.

But the Heath clone we want is not Sailor Ted skippering *Morning Cloud* to victory in the Admiral's Cup. Nor is it choral scholar Ted rapt at his Christmas carol concert or conducting his recording of Elgar's *Cockaigne* overture. Nor is it jolly Ted with shoulders heaving. Nor is it technocrat Ted rattling off quotas of bananas and butter so fast that his performances win him from *Private Eye* the nickname of Grocer. Nor is it bestselling author Ted flogging his books (of an almost Archerish banality, particularly sound on banquet menus) from a special train around the politer suburbs, where buying an autographed copy was the next best thing to voting Tory in years without an election. Nor is he the radical, classless Ted, the first Tory Prime Minister from a grammar school.

All these are Ted Heaths we know and love — no doubt to different degrees. But the Heath at the evolutionary stage that we should clone is the grumpy old boy in a sulk. For as that he is a unique treasure and irreplaceable. We need the Father of the House glowering at the Grocer's Daughter from his seat below the gangway. We must preserve the Ted Heath selectively pouring scorn on her economic policies and her lack of vision about Europe. We want the Ted Heath who disliked two things above all else: people who disagreed with him and women. And Margaret Thatcher happened to be both. We want the Heath whom Nicky Fairbairn described as "a little boy sucking his misogynist thumb and blubbing and carping in the corner of the front bench below the gangway". We recognise with delight the Ted Heath of whom George Gardiner, with more truth than black propaganda for once, observed that "receiving support from him in a by-election is like being measured by an undertaker".

For that imago from the chrysalis Ted Heath is an English institution. And his role as national Mr Grumpy is an archetype. Grumpy has been a fiery star from *Timon of Athens* to Molière's *Misanthrope*, and from *Scrooge* to Statler and Waldorf, the two Muppet curmudgeons. Thersites played his part in the *Iliad*. And one of the first comedies of the Western stage is Menander's *Dyskolos* or *The Grouch*. Literature as well as life would be poorer without such bad-tempered figures of both fear and fun. Children like to be terrified by rage that is clearly pretended.

After we have cloned Ted Heath for the nation, and incidentally ensured that he can appear simultaneously on *Newsnight* and *News at Ten*, we must consider other national heroes for cloning. Another archetype as powerful as the angry old man in a bate is the sage and seer, the wise Merlin figure who can foresee the future from his knowledge of the past. And a strong candidate for that clone is my former Editor who appears on this page on Mondays and Thursdays.

I went to a Gaudy (old boys' reunion feast) at Trinity, Oxford. The main speaker, as is the ritual on these occasions, was praising Trinity and Trinity men of bygone days to the skies, when a Falstaffian archetype halfway down the hall rose unsteadily to his feet and cried: "I have an anecdote!" His neighbours pulled him down by his sleeves. But he bobbed straight up again like a bad apple. So he had either to be carried out or left to tell his anecdote. The latter course seemed more prudent. His anecdote ran: "Of course Trinity in our day was the best college: head of the river, winner of Cuppers, home of the brave. But by far the most celebrated event in my time was performed by me. There was this dreadful swot at Balliol over the wall from my rooms. Called Rees-Mogg. Always getting his name in the papers. Well I got my two Service revolvers, and let off 12 rounds at him one night when he was sitting there illuminated. Missed the bugger. But I must have given him one hell of a fright. I often wonder what happened to him in later life."

Just in case there are such Trinity scholars still around, let us clone William for the nation, at once.

Tessa Blackstone accuses the Government of neglecting culture, and outlines Labour's arts policy

Heritage versus a creative economy

Recently there has been an avalanche of press reports describing London as the style capital of the world, a symbol of a suddenly discovered, or perhaps rediscovered "Cool Britannia". Behind all the hype lurks a truth we seem reluctant to acknowledge. It is that as a nation we are pre-eminent in almost every field of the arts and cultural innovation, what Tony Blair in a recent speech on the arts called "the creative economy".

The facts speak for themselves. We account for something like 20 per cent of world sales of recorded music. *Les Miserables* has become a major export industry in its own right, clocking up almost £600 million in overseas earnings. The most innovative and successful creator of electronic games, itself a £6 billion a year industry, is based on Merseyside. And so on. In theatre, fashion, television, design, advertising and architecture, Britain is a world leader. These are formidable assets in a global economy which is more and more driven by a trade in ideas as well as goods.

"Intellectual property" such as music, the audiovisual industries, publishing, software, and other industries whose value derives essentially from rights and royalties, now earns more for the American economy than any other sector. It is growing twice as fast as the rest of the economy and generating jobs almost four times faster. That trend is mirrored in Britain. The 1991 census revealed that employment in the cultural industries grew 34 per cent in ten years, against a background of virtually no change in overall employment.

That is not to suggest that the nation's cultural life is nothing more than a useful export industry. The arts are an essential component of any civilised society. In an age of uncertainty about our values, they can provide powerful forms of self-identity and communication for individuals and for the nation as a whole. They should stimulate not just national pride but also rational policy. Sadly, the Government has failed to recognise either their commercial or their cultural significance, and the success with which many local authorities have put the arts at the centre of strategies for the regeneration of local economies and of civic pride has been accomplished despite the efforts of central government. There are many examples of government failure, from the lack of adequate planning for the distribution of National Lottery money to the lack of support for dance and drama students, which means the next generation of performing talent is not getting the opportunities it deserves.

Predictably, an overprescriptive national curriculum has squeezed the arts from school timetables, as a damning report last year from the Royal Society of Arts confirmed. We need to rehabilitate the arts as a legitimate area of public policy. One way to start is by putting them back where they properly belong — at the heart of education. Arts and education feed each other. Schools and colleges are the source both of the artists and the audiences of the future.

For sound social and economic reasons, it behoves good government to foster a climate in which the arts are accessible to all and in which excellence is valued and nurtured. We can build on the commitment of the best local authorities and the innovative work of the regional arts boards, allowing the Arts Council to be a strategic planner and promoter of good practice. We should recognise that broadcasting is the dominant means of access to an enjoyment of the arts. The BBC's power as a patron of the arts far exceeds that of the Arts Council itself, and on the basis of its Oscar nominations, Channel 4 claims to rank alongside some of the Hollywood studios as a successful film-maker. The recent Labour Party lottery review rightly recommended that all major arts funding applications should include plans to use broadcasting to reach new audiences. More television channels and the advent of digital terrestrial television will make the role of broadcasters even more important.

An arts scene that is genuinely popular and lively, with engaged and critical audiences, enables talent to flourish. At present, too much talent goes unrecognised and undeveloped. Labour's proposal for a National Endowment for Science, Humanities and the Arts ("Nesta") is intended to address this sad state of affairs. Just as the National Trust encourages endowments of land and property to be enjoyed by future generations, Nesta will encourage artists and other creative people to donate copyrights as an endowment for the support of future talent. Today's successes will provide seed-corn for tomorrow's.

In that sense, the scheme is a paradigm of what a good arts policy should be, building on the heritage of the past, not for its own sake but to discover new directions for the future. It is unfortunate that the government department responsible for the arts goes under the label of "heritage". It should be more concerned with the future than with the past, not least because that future looks bright. The vitality of our cultural life will be a key element in any attempt to rebuild a more cohesive and inclusive society. It also seems likely to be an increasingly significant motor of the national economy, a major potential source of jobs and wealth, and one of the most attractive aspects of our international image. It adds up to an enviable position from which to step into a new millennium, and that is a bonus we ought not to waste.

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the Lords.

The West Lothian nightmare

What would a Scottish parliament do to England? Make chauvinists of the Tories

Matthew Parris

It is February 1999. Labour has won the 1997 election and, after a short Commons struggle, instituted referendums in Wales and Scotland to discover whether their peoples desired parliaments of their own. The Scots' referendum has included a second question: Shall their parliament have tax-raising powers?

Wales has voted narrowly against a parliament, while Scotland voted "yes" to a parliament but "no" to tax-raising powers. After a long and debilitating fight in the Commons and Lords, a Bill to give Scotland its parliament has passed, the institution has been set up in Edinburgh, and elections to it have taken place. Edinburgh's remit includes health, education, local government, employment, heritage, transport, home affairs (most of them) and a fair measure of the portfolio of the former "President of the Board of Trade" too.

As Edinburgh has no power to raise revenue, but must govern with grants from Westminster, the Scots parliament is in a state of permanent rage at what its members see as inadequate funding from London. Every domestic ill or want is blamed on insufficient resources from London, Scots political careers are being carved by skill in doing this, and conflict is stirred cruelly by the Principal Opposition in Edinburgh, the Scottish National Party, which portrays Scottish Labour (the governing party) as the poodle of an English master, Tony Blair. The campaign brings the SNP rewards in local government elections. Scottish Labour members and their Edinburgh leader, a Mr Robert Mackay, are driven into the most intransigent posture they dare risk, against the Labour government in England. The Scottish National Party is boycotting the London legislature.

The English electorate is baffled and annoyed by all this. Voters hardly understand the feuding within the ruling Labour Party, and are not disposed to try. They are left with a vague feeling that Scottish politicians are a troublesome, greedy and ungrateful lot.

They are, of course, ruled by Scottish politicians — "ruled" in the sense that Scotland has also sent some 55 Scottish MPs to Westminster, where the London government's overall majority is 37. Without these Scots colleagues in the Westminster division lobbies, none of the government's measures, including all its measures for *English* health, education, local government and so forth, could be passed.

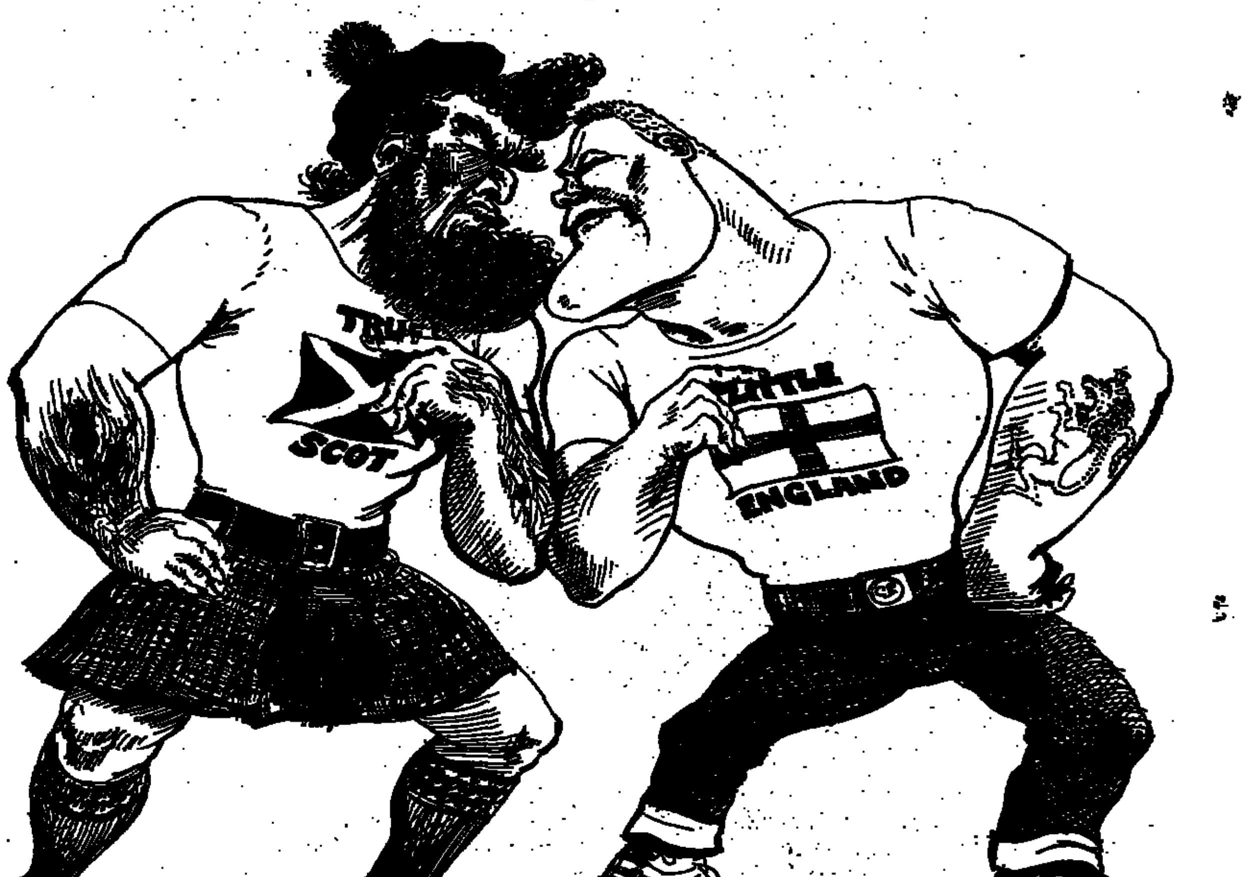
The temperature is high, misunderstandings are easy to fan. Into this unhappy scene step the Secretary of State for Local Government in England and Wales, the northeastener Jack Cunningham, and his Edinburgh opposite number, Mr Mackay. There has been a growing need to choose a site in which to bury low-level nuclear waste, produced in both Scottish and English power stations. Possible sites have been identified in Northumbria and Fife.

English MPs from the North East are enraged, but the whole Scottish Labour Party confronts Prime Minister Blair with the truth that the SNP will make mincemeat of them if Fife is chosen — for Sassenach waste! Blair, weakened by other disputes, tips his London Cabinet into recommending Northumbria. Mackay beats Cunningham. There is a rebellion by English Labour MPs from the North East plus the whole Tory Opposition, but, using his army of 55 Scots MPs, Blair crushes it in the Westminster division lobbies.

It is unfortunate that at this moment two government Bills are overturned in the as yet unreformed Lords: one to dismantle the last remaining grammar schools in England, the other (the NHS being in one of the more acute of its cash crises) to give the English Health Secretary emergency powers to close hospitals in England without the customary consultation and delay. Returning to the Commons, both Bills provoke rebellions by English MPs, but the Scottish Labour infantry is used to beat both down.

Fate never endowed me with brains, brawn or good looks in any unusual measure: but what did come my way was a calm and massive faith in the power of a sound argument. Grasp that rope, and in the end you will never be confounded. To my surprise, better men than me — cleverer, sometimes, too — gibber in the face of the opinions of others. Being, at heart, always a little afraid of logic, they weigh arguments like flour — "How strongly do how many people feel about this *now*?" — rather than evaluating what is sustainable. Thus they minimise the risk of being confounded by their peers, preferring the risk of being confounded by events.

And so we come to this Tuesday's letter to *The Times* from Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. Jenkins is a good, brave man with a powerful mind: but he has taken fright: not at the logic of the devolutionists' case, but at its passion. After a discursion into the Irish question in the 19th century, he urges that a parliament for Scotland "had better be accepted" or else the Union will be in danger.



But that is not an argument, it is a threat. Lord Jenkins offers it as his solution to the fabled West Lothian question. Or, rather, he declares that in the face of this threat, "the West Lothian question, neatly unanswerable although it is, falls into insignificance". It is easy to picture the civilised yet dismissive wave of the wrist with which Lord Jenkins would say "falls into insignificance".

But does it? Will it? Does the question "What would Scottish MPs at Westminster be *for*?" fall into insignificance? More than two-thirds of the Commons business this week past — a National Heritage Bill, London Underground, social security, the Church of England, education and employment . . . — would, after devolution, have gone to Edinburgh or appear as "English and Welsh" business at Westminster. Does it "fall into insignificance" to ask what Scottish MPs at Westminster would be doing here?

When the votes of Scottish MPs, strangers to their own country's parliament, swing the Commons axe over St Thomas's Hospital in London, slash grants to English local authorities, abolish English grammar schools or direct the burial of nuclear waste in England, will the West Lothian question fall into insignificance? Let Scottish MPs' votes clinch the closure of Devonport naval dockyard, and wait for the *Sun* headline: "Jocks sock docks shock"; wait for the *Daily Mail*: "Bury Dounreay waste in Northumbria say Scots MPs"; wait for the first brick through the window of the first Scottish MP's London apartment; and ask yourself whether that brick, and the anger which will propel it, "falls into insignificance".

Few can match Lord Jenkins's understanding of the Irish question at the end of the last century, but some of us have some understanding of the Tory party at the end of this one. I say to him — what none of the present Cabinet can say but many fear — that his road leads inexorably to the emergence of the English Conservative Party and precisely the "little England chauvinism" that he and I so fear. If, with me, he had watched the response and body-language of the government benches during last week's thrilling debate on devolution, he would know that this could come very fast — within months, not years. It is simmering beneath the surface now.

Lord Jenkins says the West Lothian question is unanswerable. It is not. There is a simple answer: the establishment of a comparable parliament for England: not bits of England, not the East Midlands or the Welsh Marches, but England. If we get Scottish devolution, this will become the official policy of the Conservative Party, before the millennium.

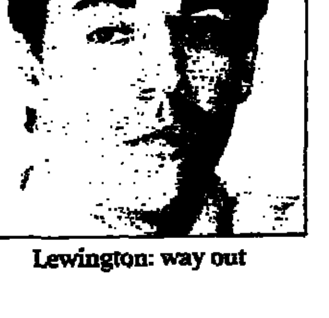
It is not too late — but there remain only days — for Mr Blair to withdraw his proposals, in favour of a new post-election consultation across the parties. It is not too late for Mr Major to respond with a recognition that the rage England would feel against Scottish rule is the rage Scots feel now about rule from England. It's an embarrassment and a bore, but wearily and painfully, both sides must agree to tear up their cardboard models and start again.

This will be almost impossible for Mr Blair to do. But that he wants to and knows he ought to, I can know without speaking to him. I can know because I know he, too, understands the power of argument.

Bell rings

THEY are already manning the boats at Conservative Central Office for after the election. Charles Lewington, the director of communications at Smith Square, is said to be in the first liferaft. He plans to leave Central Office after the election, whatever the result.

He tells some that he fancies a return to newspapers, which may be difficult for a while in the light of his obviously politically slanted work over the past couple of years. Others, however, seem sure that he will be finding his way into the welcoming arms of Sir Tim Bell and his PR business. He has been seeing a lot of Bell recently in planning meetings for the election.



Lewington: way out

Lewington was political editor of the *Sunday Express* and a favourite of its Editor, Eve Pollard, before Central Office came shopping for him. His manner and permanent tan are more suited to a game-show host or Mediterranean gigolo than a political hatchet-man.

Bell's company has been a useful halfway house for many former political advisers. Jonathan Hill, the Prime Minister's political secretary, went there after No 10, as did Stephen Sherbourne, Margaret Thatcher's political secretary.

As one former colleague of Lewington's puts it: "He'd love it with Bell. He is after all a man who likes plants on his desk and his coffee out of china cups."

● *Theft is rife among visitors to the Royal Opera House at the moment. They have been taking momentoes such as lavatory signs before the place closes for a two-year refit in July. Keith Cooper, the general manager of the ROH, is keen to stop the crimewave. "There will be plenty of opportunity for people to buy their momentoes, so they needn't steal them." So enough of the furtive trousering.*

One's rush

THE unprecedented levels of security surrounding the state visit of President Weizman of Israel seem to have inconvenienced the Queen as well as London's drivers. On Wednesday, she found herself delayed *en route* to the unveiling of the Raoul Wallenberg statue.

"I'm sorry: it's another $20,000 to use the bathroom"

When she arrived, before either her greeting party or her chauffeur could make it to open her door, she had dispensed with ceremony, opened the door herself and got out to be greeted by a flushed Lord Mayor.

Family fella

FOR anyone still baffled about precisely what it is spin-doctors do, a good example appeared in yesterday's *Sun*. Blazoned across two pages were Tony Blair and his wife, with the Labour leader saying he would "walk away from politics tomorrow" if he was forced to choose between his family and his job.

Only last week, Blair was completely outflanked on the family man front in *Cosmopolitan* magazine. Asked to name the most significant events in their lives, a blushing John Major nominated his marriage to Norma, while Blair offered his election as leader of the Labour Party. Thanks to the spinners who guard his image, the record has been put straight.

Hats off

THIS evening sees John Major fundraising in Glasgow for a silly hat party. It has all the makings of a disaster. Marquees are planned on the banks of the Clyde. Unfortunately, so are gales.

Major headache

Comedy hats will be handed out at the entrance, presumably in homage to Douglas Hogg and the PM's own appearance in tribal headgear at the Khyber Pass earlier this year. By way of a challenge to any paparazzi, the order has come from No 10: no cameras.

● *Impressing the judges at this year's Miss Belgium beauty contest will require more than two hobbies and an intimate knowledge of nail-varnish, after a regional heat was won by an economics student. Sandrine Durrant, 19, was crowned Miss Brabant Wallon after giving a speech on the merits of a single European currency.*

Sandrine: euro one

Grey gay

ON THE stage at the Fridge nightclub in Brixton on Wednesday night was a young man in shorts, carrying a snorkel shouting "I'm gay and I work for the Treasury." Meet John Gillespie, Band C civil servant and enthusiastic entrant in the London heats of Mr Gay UK.

Greasing up backstage before the show, Gillespie confessed that although he was concerned about what this might do to his promotion prospects, he was tired of the anonymity of Civil Service work and "always wanted to be famous".

"He's 18kg, enjoys rowing, dancing and vandalism," said the compere. "His role model is ex-Take Thatter, Gary Barlow," and on came Gillespie in trunks and vest. He soon dispensed with the top, removed the snorkel from between his lips and let out a hugh cathartic cry: "I work for the Treasury, and it is cool." He did not qualify for the next round.

P·H·S

ANKARA COUP FEVER

Warning time for Turkey and its allies

Turkey is a pivotal member of Nato. Its integrity and democracy are vital not only to regional stability but to the Atlantic alliance as a whole. Turkish democracy now looks increasingly imperilled. The Islamic Government of Necmettin Erbakan has embarked on a campaign to give Islam a more visible position in Turkish public life. This has alarmed many people, including politicians, who see a threat to the long-established secular Constitution. President Demirel, an influential political veteran, has made clear his concern. More ominously, the Turkish Army, which sees itself as a guardian of the Ataturk Constitution, is implacably opposed to the trend. It has already sent tanks through the capital's Islamic suburbs as a warning. Today Mr Erbakan has a crucial meeting with senior officers. Tension is running high and rumours are rife. The threat of a military coup is everywhere.

To dismiss the army's concern as bluster is to underestimate its power and growing dismay at the fumbling of Mr Erbakan's ill-matched coalition. Turkey's military establishment is far from happy. It had hopes, along with other weary voters, that the advent to power of the Welfare Party might lead to a breakthrough in the guerrilla war with the Kurds — a conflict that has taken more than 12,000 lives. Under an Islamic banner of unity, it was hoped that Mr Erbakan might be able to satify Kurdish political and cultural demands. No such thing has happened, and the war goes on.

The army has also looked with dismay at the Government's crass attempts to pursue an Islamic foreign policy with provocative visits by Mr Erbakan to Iran and Libya. These have weakened Turkey's influence in Washington and been used by the Greek lobby there to undermine Turkey's request for new weapons. As a result, Turkey is now subject to an undeclared weapons embargo. For the army, Nato is a source of strength and pride; anything that weakens Turkey's position in the alliance is deeply resented.

European policy has been equally unsuccessful — although the Europeans are largely to blame. The worsening relations with Greece, the provocative Cypriot insistence on buying Russian missiles and the European Union's continued withholding of funds to offset Turkish losses from the customs union have all made the Government look weak and increased a sense of isolation in Ankara. Turkey, one of the earliest applicants for full EU membership, now sees itself being overtaken in the queue by 11 other applicants. And with Greece hauling on the brakes, the EU seems unwilling to offer Turkey even the face-saving guarantee that its case will be considered equally with the others.

Despite a long campaign against the Islamists by other political parties, voters took a chance on Welfare. They thought that nothing could be worse than the mess made by the traditional parties; and they believed that the army and any secular coalition partner would keep the Islamic trend under control. In the second they have been disappointed. High-profile rows such as those over the attempt to allow women civil servants to wear headscarves and a proposal to build a new mosque in Istanbul's main square have convinced many that the Government is encouraging Islamic fundamentalism and that Tansu Ciller, the junior coalition partner, has little power to stop it.

Yet no one wants the army to step in, as it did in 1960 and 1980. It would be a disastrous setback for Turkish democracy and encourage Islamic underground fanaticism. The economy is in better shape than in 1980 and the army itself knows the risk of intervention. President Demirel has no power to dismiss the Prime Minister. But he and the army officers can warn him of the dangers of his political course. For the sake of Turkey and the alliance, he should listen.

CASH FOR ANSWERS

University funding should reflect research excellence

The days when only economics dons talked about money have long since passed for Britain's universities. The issues of overall funding levels and the internal allocation between institutions now dominate academic life. The latest cash grants outlined by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) yesterday will doubtless spark further fury in the common rooms. The total amount available has been frozen in real terms, which will disappoint many but surprise few. On the other hand the Government has conceded rather greater delegation over decisions between capital and current expenditure, which is an overdue offer of flexibility.

The most intense scrutiny, though, will be placed on the individual totals awarded. This year those figures were intended to reflect the recently completed research assessment procedure. Universities were informed that their performance would be linked to scrutiny of their scholarly output. Such outside monitoring of standards has never been popular. Protests about the amount of additional paperwork and bureaucracy involved have considerable legitimacy. The accompanying charge that the whole concept of comparison was impossible had rather less to commend it.

Despite this oft-expressed distaste, the financial inducements available appeared to have some impact. In aggregate, the numbers achieving higher grades from this external evaluation showed an encouraging increase from the 1992 equivalent. More impressive still were the number of departments that achieved the new, and welcome, five star highest rank indicating a standard of significant international excellence.

The sums awarded by the funding agency have followed the research exercise to some extent but not completely. Institutions that showed a dramatic improvement have had part of their increase "moderated": that is, their gain has been clawed back to subsidise those who were judged to have made little or no progress over the past four years. This has been explained by the claim that dramatic shifts in financial settlements would be unduly disruptive on those who found their resources cut. As a consequence, University College, London will receive nearly £1.7 million less than otherwise; Oxford University just over £1 million, and Imperial College, London, over £500,000.

Had that money been transfered to those institutions that recently switched from polytechnic status it might be justified. Many of these new bodies have not yet had the opportunity to develop their potential as research centres. The real beneficiaries from this policy decision, however, include the Universities of Exeter, Liverpool, London and Manchester, which could not be considered disadvantaged or less than established by any stretch of the imagination. This is a simple case of the rules being altered to assist those whose relative performance was less impressive. The principle of rewarding excellence has been diluted to restore equity.

There seems little point in obliging higher education to endure such assessment if the results are then rewritten. It discriminates against those who have made an effort to improve and undermines the entire exercise. After the 1992 enterprise some version of redistribution endured for three years. This time, HEFCE has pledged that the cross-subsidy will stay in place for 12 months only. If the council is serious in its stated aim of investing in world-class research then it will not last a moment longer.

MODERN MEDICI

Patron of pickled cows moves to Piccadilly

The most powerful Renaissance patrons supported their personal aesthetic judgments with large fortunes. The artists profited, and so did their backers. In Britain today, patronage has revived, but much of it rests in the hands of just one man: Charles Saatchi. Mr Saatchi has contributed more to the international recognition of young British artists than any public institution. Now his collections are to reach a larger audience in a show at the Royal Academy.

Other rich Britons collect art, though the pursuit is nothing like as common here as it is in America or Germany. But Sir Denis Mahon, who has built up a great collection of 17th-century Italian paintings, and Lord Lloyd-Webber, who has amassed a large body of Pre-Raphaelite and other Victorian art, have not in the process helped living painters. A patron is more than a collector: by his financial support, he ensures that the art which he appreciates will flourish.

Mr Saatchi has been buying modern British art for nearly 30 years. He has built a gallery in Boundary Road where the annual show of young British artists regularly attracts between 50,000 and 75,000 visitors. In its first year, which was 1992, it included Damien Hirst and Rachel Whiteread, the *enfants terribles* of their generation. It is now seen as a barometer of success and fashion. The show is as much of an event as a big opening at the Tate. And where Mr Saatchi leads, the subsidised galleries follow. In making himself an arbiter of taste, he has been criticised for making one-way bets, for backing and buying artworks from which he is bound to make money, whatever happens. Presumably, in the best traditions of his craft, he does make money from his patronage. Yet taste is a fickle thing; there are huge financial risks in being the only big player in a field that could easily be abandoned for another.

Mr Saatchi's taste is not shared by all; indeed it is excoriated by many who see in it only kudos for the sensation-seeking. Not everyone will be happy that his artists will be legitimised by such an august institution as the Royal Academy. But the question of whether pickled cows should qualify as art is for critics, not collectors. It is they who are supposed to be arbiters of artistic merit. And let other patrons, with other tastes, vie too for the title of modern Medici.

The likes of Mr Hirst, Marc Quinn and Marcus Harvey have helped to make modern Britain celebrated around the world. The Royal Academy has caught the spirit of the times. Its Piccadilly galleries will be able to attract a more varied crowd than now makes the pilgrimage to Boundary Road. If people hate the work, so be it. And if Mr Saatchi increases the value of his collection by opening it up to wider view, good luck to him.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Investment 'crisis' of London's Tube

From the Chief Executive of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sir, Among the increasing number of suggested solutions to London's Tube investment crisis (reports, February 26) is the theory, endorsed by Labour, that a strategic authority would provide an effective voice with which to argue for sufficient funding levels. History suggests differently, however.

According to London Transport's own figures, the investment backlog in 1988 stood at £2 billion at today's prices — that was just two years after the abolition of the Greater London Council. Since then, far from getting worse, the backlog has been whittled away to £1.2 billion.

A strategic body of some description, which London's business community would warmly welcome but for different reasons, is only part of the solution to the present problems. Other elements include the effective management of London Transport, which already exists, and the political determination to ensure adequate investment funding, which clearly does not.

Whether or not the Tube is eventually privatised, investors will be happy to invest in a network, provided a commercial rate of return is forthcoming. London certainly needs a strategic body, but not in order to recruit investors; rather, it needs one to promote and defend its interests, to coordinate public policy more generally, and to ensure that policymaking in London becomes more transparent.

To our competitors in other world cities it can seem ludicrous that a city of London's magnitude, responsible for producing one fifth of the UK's GDP, lacks an accountable, transparent and effective means of formulating and co-ordinating policy.

It is also ludicrous that London's Tube system, which you rightly describe as "this marvel of Victorian engineering" (leading article, February 24), is abandoned to dilapidation. But a new government structure for London is not sufficient in itself to ensure this. It needs political will too.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON SPERRYN,
Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
33 Queen Street, EC4.
February 26.

From Mr Illtyd Harrington

Sir, It really is beyond belief that the Government, with Sir George Young cast once again as Pontius Pilate, is washing its capital investment failures away with a privatisation solution for London's Underground.

It has long been apparent, certainly to the City and its Lord Mayor, that for 60 years public investment and accountability proved to be a successful formula.

London now has the highest fares in Europe. No one can deny that the New York subway is cheaper and in many ways more reliable than London's.

A once-envied public utility should resume that role in the hands of local London government.

Yours faithfully,
ILLTYD HARRINGTON
(Deputy Leader, GLC, 1973-85),
16 Lea House, Salisbury Street, NW8.
February 25.

From Mr John Norton

Sir, As an American tourist in London on two occasions within the past year, I urge the powers that be to heed Peter Riddell's advice on February 24, "Mind the funding gap", and to find the funding needed for the Tube.

From a tourist's perspective, Tube transport is a national — or at least a London — treasure. There is no better way to gain an appreciation for the characters of the many Londons that I have come to enjoy but never would have save for Tube transit. By contrast, the New York subways are the absolute last place one would wish to consign a tourist to.

I hope that the rider of modest means — foreign or native — is not forgotten in any scheme to privatise the system and that the ingenious simplicity of a fairly complex system will be maintained. Thousands of us look forward to renewing our acquaintance with London via its wonderful Tube.

Yours etc,
JOHN NORTON,
9 East High Street,
Annville, PA 17003.
February 25.

Quite a quorum

From Mr Timothy M. Simon

Sir, Committees, in my experience, are a device invented to thwart decision-making and to provide people with a frequently undeserved forum; but the mind of even the most committed committophile must have boggled at the size of the funeral committee established for Deng Xiaoping — 459 members (report, February 21).

I admit that it appears to have operated with an efficiency which many smaller committees would be proud to emulate; maybe in time-honoured fashion it spawned a sub-committee.

Yours faithfully,
T. M. SIMON,
2 New Square, WC2.
February 25.

Business letters, page 27

West Lothian question: flaws in the Ulster analogy

From Lord Blake, FBA

Sir, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (letter, February 25), dealing with the "awkwardness" of the West Lothian question, concluded that on the analogy of Northern Ireland "it had better be accepted for Scotland (perhaps with some reduction in the number of Scottish seats at Westminster)".

Why "perhaps"? What possible justification could there be for Scotland to have both a devolved parliament in Edinburgh and 71 seats in Westminster when on a population basis it is entitled to only 57? Indeed, if the analogy of Northern Ireland is accepted, it should have even fewer.

As Mr Jonathan Caine pointed out in his letter of February 21, from 1920 until the abolition of the Stormont parliament in 1972 Northern Ireland had only 12 seats at Westminster. On a population basis it would have had 17. If Scotland is to have a devolved parliament its representation at Westminster ought to be reduced to 40.

Yours faithfully,
BLAKE.
House of Lords.
February 25.

From the Director of the Conservative Political Centre

Sir, It is pointless to follow Roy Jenkins in speculating about whether Anglo-Irish amity would have been secured if Gladstone's Home Rule Bills had passed. Gladstone knew little of Ulster and cared less. He refused to discuss his plans seriously with members of his own party in the Province, and he dismissed unmistakable signs of widespread resistance in 1886 as "momentary ebullitions, which will pass away with the fears from which they spring". Any devolution scheme for Ireland which included the majority of Ulster's Unionists could never have become practical politics, and Irish nationalists were not willing to contemplate partition seriously before 1912.

Opponents of a Scottish parliament with legislative and tax-raising powers can easily withstand arguments based on wishful thinking about Irish history. But, like Irish Unionists a century ago, they need constructive alternatives. Under this Government they have been able to develop their ideas much more fully than their predecessors, curbed by unimaginative English Tories, were ever in a position to do.

The Union between Scotland and the rest of the country has been transformed by Michael Forsyth's reforms. Local government in Scotland has been put on a more democratic basis (something, incidentally, that Gladstone in the early 1880s flatly refused to do in Ireland). Most importantly, a form of devolution has been found that avoids the West Lothian question and all other difficulties, through the expansion of the Scottish Grand Committee. It can meet anywhere in Scotland; it can deal with all Scottish legislation; and it can call all ministers (not just Scottish Office ministers) to account.

This Government has reconciled devolution and Union.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR B. COOKE,
Director,
Conservative Political Centre,
32 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1.
February 25.

From Dr H. A. Will

Sir, Lord Jenkins's perceptive letter does not do justice to the logic of Joseph Chamberlain's position in 1886 on the question of Irish representation at Westminster.

Why Chamberlain finally came to regard that representation as crucial was because, in his view, it would open the way for a future federal relationship between England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland on the lines, as he put it, of the relations between the Canadian provinces. That was his answer to the West Lothian question and to the wider and, for him, far more important question of preventing the ultimate separation of Ireland from the United Kingdom.

It is, whatever its practicality, the only logical constitutional settlement.

Yours faithfully,
H. A. WILL,
11 Russell Avenue,
Hartley, Plymouth, Devon.
February 26.

Vanunu plea

From Mr David Harounoff

Sir, Neither Mr Mordechai Vanunu's motives nor the medium he used to reveal details of Israel's nuclear capability can mitigate his actions (Andrew Neil's letter, February 24). One submission in mitigation is remorse. Sadly, that has been absent from any pleadings advanced by or on behalf of Mr Vanunu.

That the State of Israel was at the time of Mr Vanunu's crime — and indeed remains — in a state of war with Syria, Iraq, Iran and Libya is beyond dispute. The threat of activating its nuclear deterrent was enough to cause the Syrians to halt their advance into Israel's northern territory during the 1973 October war. It may have played a part in dissuading the Iraqis from deploying chemical and biological warheads against Israel during the Gulf War.

That deterrent remains as potent to Israel's defence now as it did then. Revelation of the means and its precise capability can only constitute the gravest of threats to the nation's security. Acts of treason of similar gravity have led to the imposition of the death penalty in the United States and Great Britain.

Although one cannot criticise Mr Neil for publishing what amounted to a major scoop in *The Sunday Times*, one wonders whether he warned Mr Vanunu at the time of the likely consequences of his actions.

Mr Vanunu's rightful conviction, sentence and denial of a pardon receive the support not only of Israel's right-wing Likud but also of the Labour Opposition.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HAROUNOFF
4 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.

Crime and punishment

From Mr Peter G. Smith

Sir, At one level Lord Rees-Mogg ("The Lords aren't soft on crime, just sensible", February 17) may be correct in his assertion that it would become more difficult to manage, in a rational way, the resources deployed in the prevention, detection and punishment of crime without some distinction between that which is petty and that which is serious (letters, February 18, 19, 22).

However, at another level, surely what the Home Office is attempting to do is to take some account of the feelings of victims of petty crime. In this respect, at least, the opinions of the man on top of the bus, much deprecated by Lord Rees-Mogg, are surely reasonably valid.

The cumulative effect of petty crime can have a devastating effect on the lives of the poorer members of our society. All too often we read of council estates and other conurbations where residents and their possessions are regularly subjected to the attentions of criminals, often from their own locality. In such areas many, particularly the elderly, are fearful of leaving their homes.

If I had an Old Master stolen I would be greatly saddened. But my financial loss would be ameliorated by my insurers. I would not be overcome by a pervading sense of despair such as that which inflicts the lives of the people cited above.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. SMITH,
Rainbow's End, Cock Lane,
Southend Bradfield,
Reading, Berkshire.
February 18.

From Mr Nick Eadon

Sir, There is a wealth of research evidence, supported by professionals in the field, that measures to reduce crime and criminality should be founded on programmes which firstly make crime harder to commit and secondly influence the motivation of offenders and potential offenders.

Harsher sentencing policy attracts cheap applause, fulfils the emotions and maybe wins elections; but it disregards reason, reality and the longer-term consequences of implementing such legislation.

Yours faithfully,
NICK EADON
(Probation Officer),
Suffolk Probation Service,
34 Foundation Street,
Ipswich, Suffolk.
February 20.

Dietary differences

From Professor Emeritus W. G. Chaloner, FRS, and Professor J. B. Pridham

Sir, It would be difficult to find scientific evidence to support many of the recommendations made in the two articles on natural ways to achieve good health (February 17 and 18). The value of fruits and vegetables as part of a balanced diet is not in doubt. However, we would urge caution to the point of consulting a medical practitioner in the case of some of the listed regimens, particularly the "monofasts".

For example, a 21-day monofast of watermelons would provide only a very small fraction of the normal dietary requirements and for some, perhaps many, individuals would not be recommended.

We also note the suggestion that sesame seeds should be consumed in gram quantities which, as you reported (News in Brief, early editions, January 13), contain allergens affecting up to 30,000 people in the UK.

The arthritis diet also appears to be a recipe for an alimentary disaster with a daily intake of cream of tartar (wrongly described as citric acid) and Epsom salts (which are both purgatives) and sodium bicarbonate.

Furthermore, the sportsperson will find it difficult to eat potatoes, tapioca etc, and at the same time avoid starch.

Yours sincerely,
W.G. CHALONER,
J. B. PRIDHAM,
Royal Holloway University
of London,
School of Biological Sciences,
Egham, Surrey.
February 19.

Quarantine reform

From Lady Fretwell

Sir, Quarantine reform has been postponed until after the election because of alleged fears among voters about change (report, February 24).

A government consultative paper which has now been suppressed could have helped to inform the public and calm exaggerated fears. What conclusion is one to draw about a policy which cannot withstand publication of scientific fact?

This means that thousands of British families abroad have had their hopes dashed, 10,000 animals will continue to suffer unnecessarily in quarantine and over 100 will die there every year.

What political calculation can justify a block on consideration of safer alternatives?

Yours sincerely,
MARY FRETWELL
(Chairman), Passports for Pets,
20 Seymour Road, SW18.
February 25.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Two of a kind

From Mr Ian C. Boulton

Sir, Libby Purves takes a welcome step away from sensationalism in her comment on the cloning of Dolly the lamb ("Like a wolf on the fold", February 25), but she nonetheless asserts that "if we prefer the illusory control of cloning to the glorious gamble of life, we will be interfering with nature in a way far more arrogant and damaging than ever before".

By definition, cloned animals are genetically identical, but the prospect of such organisms being routinely found in agriculture is extremely remote. Farming is a highly competitive business and irrespective of the inevitable reduction in cloning costs, it seems unlikely that tried and tested methods of reproduction will ever be undersold.

Any form of selective breeding has the potential to reduce the available gene pool. Ms Purves's concerns would be more appropriate if directed against the practices of modern farming than the scientific community.

Yours faithfully,
IAN C. BOULTON,
Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital,
Department of Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology,
London Bridge, SE1.
February 25.

From Mr G. S. Marvin

Sir, The sub-heading on Libby Purves's article suggests that cloning of animals reduces diversity. This is not necessarily so in nature as a whole. At a different level dandelions have been cloning for thousands of years.

Clones are capable of hybridising and producing new genotypes, which may be regarded as "species". In Britain alone some 130 different species are now recognised (*Dandelions*, A. J. Richards, Botanical Society of the British Isles, 1973).

Yours etc,
STANLEY MARVIN,
8 Addenbrooke Road,
Droitwich, Worcestershire.
February 25.

From Mr John Kay

Sir, An Edinburgh genetics laboratory has apparently created, for the first time ever, a cloned sheep.

Having just returned from a visit to North Wales, I have to say I find it very difficult to believe their work is unique.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN KAY,
Hazelwood, Priory Road,
West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside.
February 27.

From Mr K. L. Rawling

Sir, Perhaps we should bear in mind the words attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Never try to make anyone like yourself — you know, and God knows, that one of you is sufficient."

Yours etc,
K. L. RAWLING,
10 Somerville Terrace,
Otley, West Yorkshire.
February 26.

From Mrs J. Hadfield

Sir, How correct was the BBC, in a news programme last night, to describe the cloned sheep as "unique"?

Yours faithfully,
J. F. HADFIELD,
Yew Cottage,
West Pennard, Somerset.
February 25.

From Mr Paul D. Hale

Sir, Alan Shearer's unfortunate admission to hospital yet again (report, Sport, February 27) presents an opportunity. We have the technology, let's use it. Clone Alan Shearer now!

Yours faithfully,
P. D. HALE,
21 Wilson Street, EC2.
February 27.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 27: The Secretary-General of the United Nations called on The President of the State of Israel this morning.

Later The President and Mrs Weizman flew to *Cambridge Airport and were received on arrival by* Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

The President of the State of Israel and Mrs *Reuma Weizman drove to Cambridge* University Library and were received by the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Alec Broers).

The President and Mrs Weizman *later arrived at Royal Air Force* Cranwell and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire (Mrs Bridget Cracroft-Eley) and Air *Vice-Marshal John* Thompson (Air Officer Commanding and Commandant Royal Air Force College Cranwell).

The President of the State of Israel and Mrs Reuma Weizman drove to the Directorate of Recruiting and Selection and Initial Officer Training (Royal Air Force) *and watched demonstrations of* aptitude tests and hangar exercises.

The President afterwards visited Royal Air Force College Cranwell and, *having been received by* the Chief of the Air Staff (Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon), addressed Air Officers in the Lecture Hall.

Mrs Weizman visited the College Community Centre.

The President of the State of Israel and Mrs Reuma Weizman were *subsequently entertained* to Luncheon by the Commandant.

The President afterwards planted a commemorative tree in Queen's Avenue and, *with Mrs Weizman, viewed static aircraft and met personnel.*

The President of the State of Israel and Mrs Reuma Weizman later visited the Imperial War Museum, *Lambeth Road, London SE1, and* were received by The Duke of Kent, President of the Imperial War Museum, and the Chairman (Field Marshal the *Lord Bramall KG*).

The President and Mrs Weizman viewed exhibits and, having met members of the Jewish Community in Britain who have supported the project, His Excellency *handed to* The Duke of Kent items from the collection of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem as a founding contribution from the State of Israel to the *Holocaust Exhibition.*

His Excellency Mr A. H. Mahmood Ali was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall *of his predecessor* and his own *Letters of Commission as High Commissioner* for the People's Republic of Bangladesh in London.

Mrs Ali was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

Major Sir Fergus Matheson of *Matheson, Bt, was received by* The Queen this morning and delivered up his Stick of Office upon relinquishing his appointment as Standard Bearer of Her Majesty's Body *Guard* of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms.

Colonel Sir Piers Bengough was received by The Queen upon his *appointment as Standard Bearer of* Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and received from The Queen his Stick of Office.

The *Lord* Macfarlane of Bearsden was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight of the Most Ancient and *Most Noble Order of the Thistle.*

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were entertained by The President of the State of Israel and Mrs Reuma Weizman this evening at a *Dinner* at Spencer House, St James's Place, London SW1.

The President and Mrs Weizman, with the Israeli Suite in attendance, afterwards left Buckingham Palace upon the conclusion of the State Visit to The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Trustee, this morning attended a Meeting of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, *London* SE10.

By Command of The Queen, the Earl of Airlie KT (Lord Chamberlain) was present at Stansted Airport this evening upon the Departure of The President of the *State of Israel and* Mrs Reuma *Weizman* and bade farewell to His Excellency and Mrs Weizman on behalf of Her Majesty.

February 27: The Duke of York, Trustee, this morning attended a Meeting of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10.

February 27: The Prince Edward, Patron, the London Mozart Players, this evening visited Nestlé UK Limited, St George's House, Croydon, *Surrey, to mark the opening of the* building following restoration and to open the Nestlé Exhibition, and was received by Colonel Ian McRobbie (*Deputy Lieutenant of Greater* London).

His Royal Highness later attended a Concert given by the London *Mozart Players for the residents of* Woodcote Grove House, Coulsdon, Surrey.

February 27: The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, *this morning visited City Citizens Advice Bureau* during its Thirtieth Anniversary and opened the new premises at 32 Ludgate Hill, London EC4.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the British Film Commission, 70 Baker Street, London W1.

The Princess Royal, Honorary Colonel, *University of London Officers* Training Corps, this evening attended the Unit Annual Dinner at Yeomanry House, Handel Street, London WC1.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 27: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning visited the National Headquarters of the British Red Cross Society and presented *The Queen's Badge of Honour* to the Countess of Limerick and to Mr David Wyatt.

Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox and Sir Alastair Aird were in *attendance.*

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 27: The Prince of Wales was received by The President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh this morning.

Afterwards His Royal Highness was received by the Prime Minister.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, visited ActionAid relief projects for slum *dwellers in the Tikkapara district of* Dhaka and was briefed on the work of ActionAid and WaterAid in Bangladesh.

His Royal Highness later flew to Sylhet *and was received by the* Divisional Commissioner (Mr Habibur Rahman).

The Prince of Wales afterwards attended a *Reception for the local* Bangladeshi community at the Sylhet Golf Club.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum, *later attended a Seminar on* "Partners in Development" followed by a Reception at the Sheraton Hotel, Dhaka.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended *a State Banquet given by the* Prime Minister.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 27: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended a *Banquet given by the President of the State of* Israel and Mrs Reuma Weizman at Spencer House, St James's Place, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE
February 17: The *Duke* of Kent this *evening* attended a concert by the International Music Seminar's Prussia Cove, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 27: Princess Alexandra and the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy this evening attended a Dinner given by the President of the State of Israel and *Mrs Reuma Weizman at* Spencer House, St James's Place, London SW1.

Dr *John* Mitchiner, who was received in *audience by The Queen on* February 26, should have been accredited to the Republic of Armenia, not the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as *stated in* yesterday's Court Circular.

Memorial service

Sir James Comyn, QC
The Lord Chancellor was represented by Ms Michelle Cale at a memorial service for Sir James Comyn, QC, held on Wednesday at the Temple Church. The Lord Chief Justice and the Master of the Rolls were present.

Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of the Temple, officiated, assisted by Father John Fordham, of Brompton Oratory.

Mr Justice Cazalet read the lesson and His Honour Kenneth Willcock, QC, gave an address.

The Treasurer of the Middle Temple and the Treasurer of the *Inner Temple* attended. Among *others present were:*

Lady Comyn (widow), Mr and Mrs Rory Comyn (son and daughter-in-law), Miss Kate Comyn (daughter), Dr Eleanor Clarke, Miss Michelle Clarke, *Mrs Richard Allden, Mr Jonathan* Allden, Colonel Robert Chaundler, Brigadier David Chaundler.

Lord Phillimore, Lady Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Nolan, Lord Ackner, *Lord Oliver of Aylmerton*, QC, Lord Wigoder, QC, Lady Justice Butler-*Sloss, Lady Roskill, Sir David Croom-*Johnson, Lord Justice Ward, Lord Justice and *Lady Hirst, Sir Ian* Percival, QC, Lord Justice Henry, Lord Justice Potter, Lord Justice Judge, Sir Ralph Gibson, Lord Justice Brooke, Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice *Thorpe, Lord Justice* Beldam.

Lady Harrison, Mr Justice Collins, Mr Justice and Lady Bennett, Mr Justice and Lady Connell, Mr Justice Wilson, Mr Justice and Lady Holman, *Mr Justice* Turner, Mr Justice and Lady Johnson, Mr Justice Harrison, *Mr Justice* French, Mr Justice Sumner, Mr Justice Hollis, Mr Justice Morland, Mr Justice Rougier, Mr Justice Jacob, Sir Douglas Falconer, Sir Ralph and Lady Kilner Brown, *Lady Leslie, Sir Godfray Le Quesne*, QC, Lady Harman, Sir William Goodhart, QC, *Sir Anthony and Lady* Ewbank, Lady Beaumont.

Mr Ian Karsten, QC, (Head of Chambers, Queen Elizabeth Building) and Mrs Karsten with Mr *David Bodey*, QC, *and Mrs Bodey*, Mr Paul Coleridge, QC, Miss Florence Baron, QC, and other members of chambers; Mr W H McBryde (also representing the Official Solicitor to *the Supreme Court*), Judge F J White, Judge Butter, QC, Judge O'Malley, Judge Pownall, QC, Judge *John* Hamilton, Judge MacLaren Webster, QC, Judge Bowsher, Judge P R *Simpson*, Judge Bradley, Judge David McEvoy, QC, Judge Gordon, *Judge* Rice, Judge Goodman, Judge Krikler.

His Honour Brian Galpin, His *Honour* Owen Stable, QC, His Honour Edgar Fay, QC, His Honour *Colin* Sleeman, *Mr David* Purnell, QC, Mr David Foskett, QC, Mr Richard Hartley, QC, Mr David Eady, QC, Mr Charles Gray, QC, Mr Anthony Hoolahan, QC, Mr J Michael *Edwards, QC, Mr Antonio Bueno*, QC, Mr Charles Whitby, QC, and Mrs Whitby, Mr Desmond Browne, QC, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, Mr Anthony Walton, QC, Mr Robin *Simpson, QC, Mr Daniel Hollis*, QC, and Mrs Hollis, Mr D Owen Thomas, QC, Mr *Patrick Phillips*, QC, Mr Timothy Preston, QC, Mr Roger Titheridge, QC, Mr P W E Taylor, QC, *Mr Robin Mathew*, QC, Mr Nicholas Purnell, QC, Mr E G Nugee, QC, Mr John Wood, *Mr Peter Wright*, Mr Michael Hosford-Tanner, Mr Andrew Tidbury, Mr Thomas Brudenell, Mr *Ivor Treherne*, Mr Stephen Morley, Mr Marcel Berlins, Mr David Gordon, *Mr David Penry-Davey, Mrs Ruth* Addison.

Miss Christine Long, Mrs *J* Moylan, Mr and Mrs Andrew Moylan, Mr Anthony Edie, Mr Richard Ingrams, *Mr Jonathan Cohen, Mr Florence* O'Donoghue, Mr Harry Turcan, Mr John Boland, Mrs *M Griffiths*, Mr Peter George, Mr Ben Maguire, Mr Alastair Stewart-Richardson, Mr *Richard* Cox, Mr O Sowande, Mr William Mumford, Mr John Craig, *Mrs Ruth Clapham, Father J Bishop*, Mr and Mrs Barry Rose, Miss Diana Rose, Mr Christopher Besley, Mr John Trench, Mr Martin Kramer, Miss Sophie Anns.

Mr Gerald Angel (Senior District Judge, Family Division), Miss Elizabeth Lawson, QC, (chairman, Family Law Bar Association), Ms Maria Fleischmann (chairman, High *Court Journalists' Association*), *Mr* Iain Sutherland (*Times Law Report*), Mr Simon Barrow (*Headmaster, The* Oratory School, Woodcote) with Mr Edward Thorneycroft (Chairman of *Governors*) and Mr David Wilson; Mr Nigel Wilkinson, QC, (Bar Golfing *Society*), Mr *Michael* Taylor (*Editor*, Press Association Law Service) and many other friends.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Alderman (Thurston Trading), Picton House, *Wargrave Road*, Twyford, Berkshire, *at 11.00; and will inaugurate* a new building of EBI Foods at Wyndyke Furlong, Abingdon Business Park, Oxfordshire, at 12.30. Later, as President of The *Princess Royal* Trust for Carers, *she will attend the Oil Club dinner at* The Thistle Hotel, Cambridge Street, Glasgow, at 7.25.

STUART HARRISON

One of the co-operative's vans brings a load of fresh vegetables to the customers

Greens in the Black Country

By John Young

TIPTON, *in the heart of the Black Country*, is *one* of those places that disquietingly dent the image of an economically prosperous Britain. The heavy industry, steelworks and foundries that once sustained *it* have long gone, *leaving a depressed and deprived community mired* in poverty, unemployment and ill-health.

It is not the sort of place where one would expect to encounter much in the way of business *initiatives, let alone a thriving* network of fresh fruit and vegetable co-operatives. Even more unlikely might seem the prospect of a green revolution aimed at putting abandoned and derelict land back into productive *use growing* food, at reviving the cultivation of allotments and back gardens, and at persuading low-income families that a healthy diet is within their means.

It all began with a survey *undertaken as part of a successful* application by Sandwell Borough Council for City Challenge funding. This established that one of the more obvious needs was for improved shopping facilities. As *almost everywhere else in Britain, out-of-town superstores* have hastened the closure of local shops, but more than half the population were without cars. Local corner shops sold little or nothing in the way of fresh produce and forays to *supermarkets frequently ended with trolleys being pushed home* and then dumped in the canal.

For Joe Drew, chairman of a local tenants' association, part of the answer lay in setting up a distribution and delivery system which would enable people on low incomes to obtain fruit and vegetables at *affordable prices. Results of* a feasibility study proved promising and the first co-operative was set up in November 1993; under Mr Drew's chairmanship the number has since grown to 39. Some operate from fixed *premises; others simply use vans* to tour local housing estates and deliver produce to customers.

Between them they boast some 800 individual members and also supply 23 schools and 16 institutions such as the YMCA, *luncheon clubs, nursing homes and day-care* centres. Schoolchildren are apparently happy to spend pocket money on apples, oranges and bananas instead of crisps and sweets.

Supplies are purchased *centrally at wholesale markets* in Birmingham and there are plans to diversify into other kinds of health foods.

Project leaders reject the idea that so-called *healthy* eating is a *preoccupation of the middle* classes; *people further down the* ladder buy junk foods because they cannot afford anything else.

So far the project has received some £136,000 in grants, used mainly to pay the salaries of Linda *Gomila, the manager, and two full-time drivers plus* the rent of a small building on an industrial estate. It aims to become self-financing *and has recently acquired* a three-acre former allotment from the council at a peppercorn rent, where it plans to raise organically-grown potatoes, celery, carrots, onions, leeks, cabbages and sprouts.

Its success has attracted inquiries from many other parts of Britain and Miss Gomila hopes that its "community agriculture" proposals will motivate people to begin growing their own fruit and vegetables once again. "At one time most families *had their own* vegetable gardens or they rented allotments," she says. "That's something we would really like to revive."

The Sandwell Food Co-operatives Project is among the entries for the 1996 Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in The Community and sponsored by The Times *and Deloitte Touche. The winners will be announced next month.*

THE TIMES/DELOITTE & TOUCHE • COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE AWARDS •

Birthdays

TODAY
Mr Peter Alliss, golfer and broadcaster, 66; Sir *Philip Bailhache, Bailiff of Jersey, 51; Sir Peter* Baxendell, former chairman, Hawker Siddeley Group, 72; Miss Stephanie Beacham, actress, 48; Mr Alfred Burke, actor, 79; Mr John *Carson, actor, 70; Dr Jonathan Clark, historian*, 46; Mr William Cockburn, chief executive, W H Smith Group, 54; Mr Robin Cook, MP, 51; Viscount Dilhorne, 65; Mr Oliver Everett, *librarian, Windsor Castle*, 54; Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, MP, 56; Mrs H.M. Grindrod, QC, 61.

Sir Anthony Havelock-Allan, film producer, 93; Admiral Sir Peter Herbert, 68; Major-General M.F. Hobbs, *director*, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, 60; Professor J.M. Irvine, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Birmingham University, *58; Professor Thomas Kempner, Professor of Business Studies*, 67; Mr Barry McGuigan, boxer, 36; Mr George Malcolm, musician, 80; Mr Martin Marriott, former Headmaster, *Canford School*, Dorset, 65; Mr Brian Moore, sports commentator, 65; the Earl of Onslow, 59; Mr Robin Phillips, actor and director, 55; Dr Peter Southern, Head Master, *Christ's Hospital*, 50; Mr Peter Stothard, Editor, *The Times*, 46; Sir John Swire, honorary president, John Swire and Sons, 70; *Sir Brian Urquhart, former* Assistant Secretary-General, UN, 78; Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, 61; Mr John Wilson, racehorse trainer, 41.

LEAP YEAR (Feb 29):
Mr *Joss* Ackland, actor, 69; Mr *Mario Andretti, racing driver*, 57; Sir David Beattie, former Governor-General, New Zealand, 73; Baroness Dunn, 57; Professor Otto Hutter, physiologist, 73; Mr Alan Loveday, violinist, 69; *Mr James Ogilvy*, 33; Mr M.P.G. Wright, Headmaster, Dover College, 53.

Grapple Reunion

The Hon Nicholas Soames, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, was the guest of honour yesterday at the RAF Club for the annual reunion luncheon of officers who served on Christmas *Island with* Task *Force Grapple*. Air Vice-Marshal B. H. Newton, Chairman of the Grapple Reunion Committee, and Mrs Newton received the guests. *Among those present were:*
Rear-Admiral J Howard, Major-General J Woollett, Air Vice-Marshal *D* Bower, Air Vice-Marshal J Jones and Mr Peter Jones.

Service dinners

University of London OTC
The Princess Royal was the principal *guest at the annual dinner of the* University of London Officers Training Corps held last night at Yeomanry House. Lieutenant-Colonel A. Brown, RE, presided.

Corps of Royal Engineers
General Sir John Stibbon, Chief Royal Engineer, presided at a guest night dinner of the Corps of Royal Engineers *held last night in Chatham*. The Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire was among the guests.

Dinners

Needlemakers' Company
The Master of the Rolls and Mr Peter Barrows were the speakers at the annual dinner of the Needlemakers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Bruce Amery, Master, presided.

British Academy of Forensic Sciences
Professor Peter Vanezis presided at the Friends' dinner of the British Academy of Forensic Sciences held last night at the Law Society. *Mr John Goldring*, QC, and Mr James Hunt, QC, were the principal speakers.

Divert
Sir Stephen Tumim was the speaker at the *annual dinner of* Divert held last night at the HAC. Lord Elton, chairman, presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.F.J. Arlott
and Miss S.M.M. Buckham
The engagement is announced between Robert Francis John, son of the late Mr and Mrs John Arlott, of Alresford, Hampshire, and Sophie Marguerite Macrae, daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs *Arthur* Buckham, of *Alresford, Hampshire.*

Mr J.P. King
and Miss N.M. Turl
The *engagement* is announced between John Peter, younger son of the late Raymond King and of Mrs King, of The Old Manse, Wilton, Salisbury, and Naomi May, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Turl, of Coulsdon, Surrey.

Mr S.J. North
and Miss T.S. Cochrane
The engagement is announced between Simon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Mike North, of Braceborough, Lincolnshire, and Tracy, younger daughter of Mr *James Cochrane and the late Mrs* Hilary Cochrane, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr S.M. Reynolds
and Miss C.M. Inns
The engagement is announced between Simon, youngest son of *Mrs Sheila Reynolds, of Charlbury*, Oxon and the late Mr William Reynolds, and Clare, daughter of Mr David Inns, of Cucklington, Somerset, and Mrs Esmond Kaye, of Kingsteignton, Devon.

Mr A.T.K. Westenberger
and Miss A.K. Evans
The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs K.A. Westenberger, of Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, and Alison, younger daughter of *Mrs T.M. De'Ath and the late Mr J.A. Evans*, of London, SW14.

Mr M.C. Barden
and Miss D.E. Mitsch
The engagement is announced between *Mark, son of Mr and Mrs* Albert Barden, of Rothley, Leicestershire, and Doris, daughter *of Mr* and Mrs Wilfred Mitsch, of Portola Valley, California.

Lieutenant E.G.B. Hayter, RN,
and Miss V.A. Fage
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs George Hayter, of Maisemore, *Gloucestershire*, and Victoria, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Fage, of Little Kingshill, Buckinghamshire.

Mr T.M.B. Watts
and Miss A.C. Betts
The engagement is announced between Toby, elder son of Colonel and Mrs Mark Watts, of Northleigh, Devon, and Alison, elder daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Michael Betts, of *Edinburgh.*

Marriage

Mr J.N.V. Bowater
and Miss J.N. Heptonstall
The marriage took place on February 14, 1997, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Henley-on-Thames, between Mr Justin Bowater, son of Mr Nicolas Bowater and *Mrs Mina Bowater*, and Miss Jacinta Heptonstall, daughter of Mr Nicholas Heptonstall and Mrs Virginia Heptonstall. The Rev David Pritchard officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her *father*, was attended by Miss Lisa Cox, Miss Candida and Miss Zoë Heptonstall and Tomasina and Florence Saunders. Mr Michael Shelton-Agar, Mr Rupert Liddiard and Mr Charles Langlands-Pearse were best men.

A reception was held at the Leander Club and the honeymoon was spent in Ireland.

Roedean

Roedean School is pleased to announce:

Junior Scholarships and Awards
Major Academic Scholarships: Natalie Mansfield (Daneshill, Oxshott), Emily Woolf (St Bede's, Eastbourne); Major Academic and Music Scholarship: Selma Oliver (St Bede's, Eastbourne); *Major Music* and Academic Scholarship: Annabel Smeeth (Salisbury Cathedral School); *Major Music Scholarship:* Saskia Boxford (Garden House, London); Academic Scholarships: Sonia Friel (Brighton & Hove High School), Gemma Wain (Cottesmore, Pease Pottage); Academic and Music Scholarship: Hannah Thomsett (St Andrew's, Eastbourne); Music Scholarships: Isabelle Appleyard Yong (Roedean), Harriet Taylor (*Roedean*); *Founders' Awards:* Gillian Bertram (St Anselm's, Derbyshire), Sasaya Suranasiddporn (St Andrew's, Eastbourne), Lara Edwards (Oldfield Junior School, London), Emma Hughes (St Hilary's, Godalming), Irma Endrojono (Mill Hill County High, London), Sara James (St Andrew's, Eastbourne), Harriet Mathams (Skippers Hill Manor, Mayfield), Anana Nwuba (Hordle House, Lymington), Mikko Shah (American School of Bombay), *Yun Wu* (St Nicholas's Primary, Brighton).

Sixth Form Scholarships and Awards
Major Scholarships: Karen Chan (Physics/Chemistry), Joanna Davies (English/Theatre Studies), Irene Harito (History/Chemistry), Harriet Hughes (Music), Tanya Tillett (Biology/*English*); *Scholarships:* Alexandra Esmonde-White (French), Helen Ho (Business Studies/Maths), Grace Ker (Art and Design), Mallika Mahtani (Latin), Ruth Taylor (Biology/Physics), Claire *Tripp* (English), Cathrine Yu (Business Studies); Awards: Raya Al-Bader (Biology/Chemistry), Victoria Bloodworth (Music), Jessica Cheney (French), Claire Cordier (*Theatre Studies*), Alice Oei (German), Alexandra Claire-Simpson (*History/Latin*), Vivian Yip (Maths).

Future Dates
Families *interested in Roedean* are invited to our Open Mornings on Saturday April 26, June 7, September 20 or November 8, when the new Science Facility, Multimedia Languages Centre and Business Studies Suite can be viewed. The Old Roedeanians' Association Summer Reunion will be held at Roedean on Sunday, April 27. Details available from the School on 01273 603181.

Anniversaries

TODAY:
BIRTHS: Michel de Montaigne, essayist, Périgord, France, 1533; Thomas Newcomen, inventor *of the atmospheric steam engine*, Dartmouth, baptised this day 1663; René Reamur, inventor and naturalist, La Rochelle, France, 1683; Sir John Tenniel, illustrator and cartoonist, London, 1820; Blondin (Jean-François Gravelet), tightrope walker, St-Omer, *France, 1824*; Ben Hecht, novelist and film writer, New York, 1894; Sir Peter Medawar, medical scientist, Nobel laureate 1960, Rio de Janeiro, 1915; Brian Jones, rock guitarist, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, 1942.

DEATHS: Manuel Johnson, astronomer, Oxford, 1859; *Alphonse de Lamartine*, poet and statesman, Passy, France, 1869; Henry James, novelist, Rye, 1916; Arnold Dolmetsch, musician, Haslemere, Surrey, 1940; Henry Luce, publisher of *Time, Fortune, Life*, Phoenix, Arizona, 1967.

Albert Berry made the first parachute jump from a *plane* over *Missouri*, 1912.

Forty-two people died when a London Underground train crashed at Moorgate station, 1975.

LEAP YEAR (Feb 29):
BIRTHS: Ann Lee, founder of the American sect of Shakers, Manchester, 1736; Gioacchino Rossini, composer, Pesaro, Italy, 1792.

DEATHS: John Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury 1583-1604, London, 1604; Edward Frederic Benson, novelist, London, 1940.

The St Gotthard Tunnel was *completed*, linking Switzerland and Italy, 1880.

Dutch *scientists produced solid* helium, 1908.

Pakistan became an Islamic republic, 1956.

Hugh Heffner opened the first Playboy Club in Chicago, 1960.

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Jacob raised a sacred pillar of stone in the place where God had spoken with him, and he offered a drink-offering on it and poured oil over it. Jacob called the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.
Genesis 35 : 14,15

BIRTHS

ADESANYA - *On 12th February 1997, to Naomi and Richard, a lovely daughter, McKenzie Jade. Congratulations from the family.*

BAKER-PENG - On February 24th *at The Portland Hospital*, to Emily L Baker and Shu-Ming Peng, a son, Quinlan, a brother for Zoe.

BROWN - On 24th February 1997, in Paris, to Gillie (née Haworth) and *Matthew*, a son, Frédéric Alexander.

DALRYMPLE - To Olivia and William, on Friday 21st February, a son, Sam Hew Tantallon.

[illegible] - On February 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Dean and Laura, a son, Colin and a daughter, Claire, brother and sister for Jen.

HUGH SMITH - *On February* 25th 1997, in Hong Kong, to Kate and Peter, a daughter.

PINNINGTON - On February 24th 1997, to Hector and Andrea (née Pentney), a son, Joscelin Richard, a brother *for Natasha.*

SHANSHAL - On February 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Lana and Mohammed, two sons, *Ahmed and Jaafar.*

SHELLEY - *On February 23rd at* The Portland Hospital, to Janine (née Hartwell) and Trevor, a daughter, Grace, a sister for Jordan Luke and Sam.

DEATHS

BUSWELL - On February 22nd at home, Margaret Elizabeth aged 76, greatly treasured wife of the late Norman Buswell OBE. Dearly loved mother of David and mother to Roger and Paula, sister of Jack and Tom Boardman. A fond aunt and grandmother and friend to many. Funeral Service at All Saints Parish Church, Pitsford, Northampton on Wednesday March 5th 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations for the British Heart Foundation *c/o Ann Bonham & Son* Funeral Directors, 71 St Giles Street, Northampton NN1 1JF tel: (01604) 34368.

DEATHS

CARO - Mary Elizabeth, devoted teacher of English, died peacefully 20th February. Funeral 1st March 10.30 am Guildford *Crematorium.*

CHAPMAN - *John Henry* Benjamin CB, RCNC, FRINA, on 25th February 1997 at Lordington Park, Chichester, aged 97. Much loved husband of the late Dorothy and father of David and Jennifer. Service 3 pm Friday 7th March at Holy Trinity, Bosham. Family and friends most welcome. No flowers, donations to RNLI.

COOMBER - *Albert John on 25th* February peacefully in Farleigh Hospice, *Chelmsford. Thanksgiving* Service at Little Baddow Church Thursday 6th March at 2.15 pm.

CULLIFORD - *Cullie died* peacefully at Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury, on *19th February 1997*. Funeral at St Mary's, Orlestone, on Thursday 6th March at *1.30pm where he will be laid* to rest with Elsie, his dearly loved wife who died 5th *February 1997*. Family flowers only please and enquiries to F.C. Wood *Ashford on (01233) 620109.*

GUNDRY - Elizabeth Anne Patricia, died on Tuesday February 25th, peacefully after an illness borne with great courage. Loving wife of Michael and mother of Johnny, William and Nicky. Funeral Service at St Peter and St Paul, East Sutton, Kent on Wednesday March 5th at 11.45 am. Family flowers only. Any kind donations to Cancer Research. Further enquiries c/o A.W. Court Funeral Directors - tel: (01622) 850840.

JEANS - *Henry Tendron* Wilson on 24th February 1997 peacefully at home aged 85. *Much loved* husband of Joan, father of Michael and Wendy, *"Grampy" to* Katherine, Jonathan, James and Rebecca, and a friend of so many. *Family funeral service* at St John's Crematorium, Woking on Wednesday 5th March at 4.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to RNLI *c/o* F.W. Chitty & Co, 45 Hingrove Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8PB. Tel: (01932) 842250.

LONDON - Eric Horton, M.B.E. on 24th February aged 88 of *Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex*, formerly of Sevenoaks, Kent. Dearly loved husband of Doris, *father of* John and Claire, grandfather and great-grandfather. Thanksgiving Service Friday 7th March at 12.15 pm in St Andrews Church, Wickham Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea. Family flowers only. Donations *if desired*, to The National Deaf Blind *Association, c/o* Mummery Funeral Director, 31 Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

MATTHEWS - Leslie G. (born 30th November 1897), historian of pharmacy, died peacefully at his home in The Temple, London on 24th February 1997 *in his* 100th year. Private funeral on 5th March at St Marylebone Crematorium. *No flowers* at his request. Donations in his memory to the Benevolent *Fund of the* Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Enquiries to Leverton & Sons, 212 Eversholt Street, London NW1 (0171) 387-6075.

McCANN - Patrick of Hutton, Brentwood, peacefully on 25th February aged 65 years. Dearly loved husband and father. Requiem Mass on Wednesday 5th March at 12 noon at Brentwood *Cathedral, followed by* burial in Ireland. Flowers may be sent *c/o* Hugh *O'Kane Funeral Directors of* Belfast (01232) 243129 or donations in favour of the British *Heart Foundation* may be sent c/o Bennetts (Brentwood) Ltd, 120 High Street, Brentwood, CM14 4AS.

McDONALD - Peacefully, on February 23rd 1997, *Sir Duncan McDonald*, CBE, aged 75, beloved husband of Jean and loving father of Jane, Anne, Kevan, Hamish and Niall and a devoted grandfather. Funeral arrangements later.

PAGE - John of Ilton, Ilminster, died with peace and dignity February 26th 1997. Enquiries please to Leonard R. Smith Funeral Directors, 1 Haydon Road, Taunton, tel: (01823) 272122.

MUMFORD - Wilfrid Bardwell on February 25th, 1997, aged 88. Died at peace in his home with all his family around him. Much loved husband of Ruth and father of David, John, Peter and Anne. *Ephesians 3 v 17, 18.* Thanksgiving service at Canford Magna Parish Church on March 5th at 3pm. Family flowers only please donations if desired to "Tear Fund" 100, Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE.

RICKETT - Sir Denis Hubert Fletcher K.C.M.G., C.B., on Wednesday 26th February 1997, aged 89 years, at Milford House Nursing Home, Salisbury. Private funeral. *Memorial Service to be announced at a later date.* Family flowers only, but donations *if desired* to Salisbury Hospice Care Trust c/o I.H. Newman Ltd., Griffin House, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury. SP1 1HL - (01722) 413136.

ROBERTS JONES - On February 25th suddenly but *peacefully at Axminster* Hospital Meinwen (Mip) of Kilmington Axminster, Devon, twin sister to the late Ella. Funeral Service Taunton Deane Crematorium on Friday March 7th at 2 pm. No flowers please, donations to the R.N.L.I. *c/o J.F. Clarke &* Son, Maryknoll, Lyme Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AU.

ROBINSON - *Peacefully on* 25th February 1997 at Milton Ernest Hall, Dorothy (Cherry), late *of* Stevington, Beds., widow of George Hensman Robinson. The *funeral will take place at* The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Stevington, Beds. on Friday 7th March at 12.15pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations in lieu *of flowers* for Stevington Church, may be sent to A.L. & G. Abbott, *Funeral Directors*, 150 Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford MK42 8BH. Tel: *Bedford* (01234) 843222.

SCOTT-WILLIAMS - Reginald died 25th February aged 75 years at Gargrave Park Nursing Home after a short *illness. All enquiries to* Howcrofts' Funeral Services, Duckett Street, Skipton, BD23 2EJ. Tel: (01756) 792172.

RODICK - On 25th February 1997, Doreen, aged 80 years. Widow of Eric, mother of Jennifer and Alison, grandmother of Caroline, Thomas, Christopher, Charlotte, Alexander, Robert and *David*, great-grandmother of Holly. Donations in her memory if desired to the R.N.L.I. or A.I.C.R. c/o Fishwicks Funeral Service, 17 Park Road, Milnthorpe, LA7 7AD. Tel: (015395) 63108.

SHEPHERD-CROSS - Fiona Mary on 27th February peacefully at home after a long and brave fight faced with extraordinary courage. Funeral Service at Northampton Crematorium at 11.30 am Wednesday March 5th, family only; followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at 3 pm at St Bartholomew's Church, Greens Norton. No flowers, but any donations should be sent to John White Funeral Directors, 188-190 Watling Street East, *Towcester*, Northants. NN12 6DB. They will be split between Marie Curie, *who were a great help* to Fiona during her illness and St Bartholomew's Church, Greens Norton, where Fiona was Church Warden.

WILSON - Constance, aged 96 years, peacefully at home on February 20th. *Funeral* Service on Tuesday March 4th at 10.30 am at Woodvale Crematorium, *Brighton. No* flowers, but donations if desired to National Deaf Children's *Society* c/o Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Lewes, *(01273) 475587.*

WILTON-STEER - Peacefully at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary *on* Wednesday 26th February 1997, Edith Margaret (Marjorie) MBE née Learmont aged 91 years. Widow of the late Alan Reed and of the late Cyril Wilton-*Steer*, devoted mother of Anne, Iain and Sally, loving stepmother of Michael and Elizabeth, a proud granny and great-granny. Funeral Service in Prestonkirk Parish Church, East Linton, on Saturday 1st March at 11.30 am to which all friends are invited. No flowers please but donations *if desired* to R.N.I.B.A., 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8RL.

YATES - Felicity Mary Elizabeth on 25th February peacefully aged 79. Adored mother of Peter, Fenella and Mandy, grandmother of William, Linda, Sandy and Michelle and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at 2 pm on Wednesday 5th March at the Church of St Mary, Liss, Hants. Flowers to Funeral Services (Petersfield) Ltd., 19 The Square, Petersfield, Hants., tel: (01730) 262711.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

TATTON BROWN - *A Memorial* Service for William Eden Tatton Brown CB will be held at St John's Church, Ladbroke Grove, London W11 on Saturday March 15th at 5.30 pm.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

HAMILTON-SPRY - A Service of Thanksgiving for Elizabeth Hamilton-Spry at St Luke's Church, The Avenue, Kew, on Saturday 22nd March at 3pm. *Call Kew College if you* wish to attend, (0181) 940-2039.

SERVICES

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OBITUARIES

BRIGADIER DAME MARY TYRWHITT

Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, DBE, TD, Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps, 1949-50, died on February 13 aged 93. She was born on December 27, 1903.

THE founder-director of the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) when it was formed in 1949, Mary Tyrwhitt played an inspirational role in ensuring the future of women in the British Army. The WRAC sprang out of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) which had proved itself in the years of the Second World War.

But in the postwar period it was not a foregone conclusion that a women's corps had a role to play. At a time of uncertainty and doubt for the ATS, it was her advice to the Army Council and her faith in a continuing women's role in the Army that helped to bring the WRAC into being.

Although she did not herself join the ATS until she was almost 35, Mary Joan Caroline Tyrwhitt came from a thoroughly martial family — albeit naval, not military. Her father, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt, had made his reputation during the First World War as commander of the celebrated Harwich Force of cruisers and destroyers, which was renowned for its buccaneering spirit in constant clashes with the enemy.

Her brother, Admiral Sir St John Tyrwhitt, who died at the relatively early age of 56, was a Second World War destroyer commander and Second Sea Lord from 1959 to 1961. Mary Tyrwhitt was therefore brought up much in the traditions of the Senior Service, and as a young girl she travelled the world with her parents.

As war clouds gathered, and it was apparent that, as they had in the First World War, women were going to have to play a role again, she joined the ATS on November 11, 1938, twenty years to the day after the Armistice. The ATS had been established two months earlier on September 9, its purpose, to provide women auxiliaries to release Territorial soldiers for active service in the event of war.

She soon proved herself to be an officer of outstanding ability. Her first task was to raise a platoon at Cranbrook, Kent, which was affiliated to The Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs).

On the outbreak of war she was in charge, first, of general duties personnel and, early in 1940, was appointed company commander in charge of cooks, clerks and orderlies at Chatham. She was then appointed to be an instructor at the first ATS Junior Officers' School.

This was followed by appointments as chief instructor and the commandant of the NCOs' School (then located at Royal Holloway College in Egham, Surrey) with the rank of Chief Commander. After senior appointments on the staff and on regimental duty, she became Deputy Director ATS as a Controller, and in 1946 took over from Dame Leslie Whateley as Director.

She was immediately faced with the responsibility of advising the Army Council on the possible formation of a new corps of women as part of the Regular Army. It had to be decided to what extent this new corps should be governed by the normal regulations of the Army. There was a good deal of discussion, in which Mary Tyrwhitt played an important part, and it was not until February 1, 1949, that the new corps came into being. Senior Controller Mary Tyrwhitt became the first Director, Women's Royal Army Corps, in the rank of Brigadier, retiring a year later.

She was appointed OBE in 1946 and DBE in 1949. She was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1950. She held the appointment of Hon ADC to King George VI from 1949 to 1950.

She retired in 1951, but remained as a member of the WRAC Council for the following three years and also became President of the ATS Dinner Club — an appointment which she enjoyed for many years.

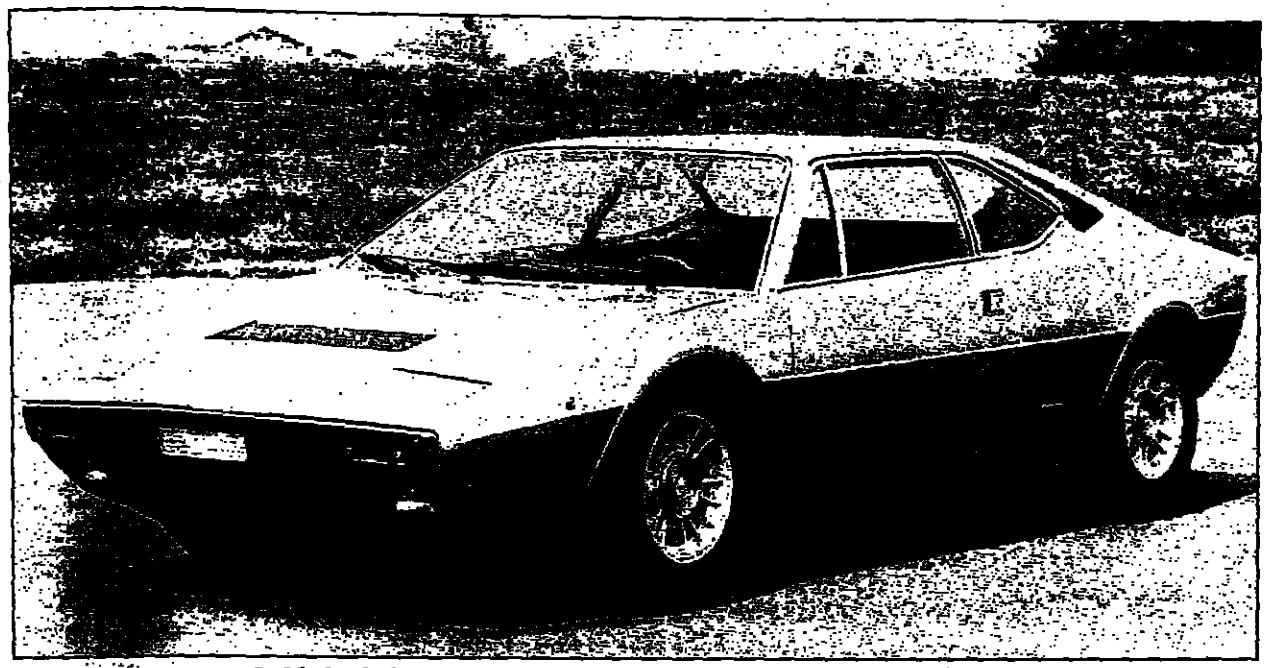
She had served in the Army for more than 12 years and in her retirement joined the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and became an assistant regional administrator in the Southern Region until 1965. She lived for many years in Pewsey, Wiltshire, before moving finally to Tiddington near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Always interested in the progress of the WRAC, she kept in touch with the corps throughout the years. In 1988, although by then in her eighties, she was very happy to become ATS representative on the committee formed to arrange the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Service.

In that year she travelled up to London for the many meetings, insisted on doing all the tiring walking around the Barbican and gave her fellow members of the committee the greatest pleasure by her unfailing interest, enthusiasm and humour.

She was unmarried.

NUCCIO BERTONE



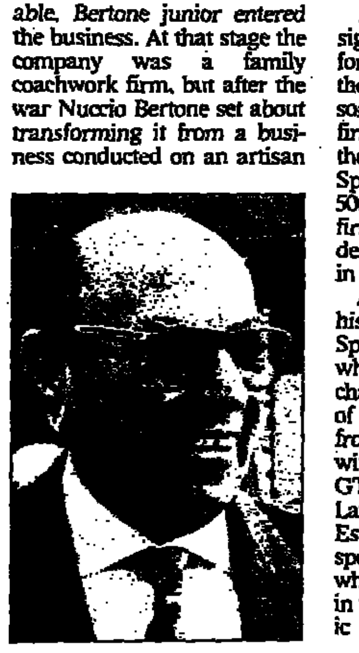
Guided missile on four wheels: Bertone's Ferrari Dino 308GT of 1976

Nuccio Bertone, Italian car body designer, died in Turin on February 26 aged 82. He was born on July 4, 1914.

WITH their characteristic wedge-shaped body shells, the designs of Nuccio Bertone were familiar on several generations of the world's best known high-performance cars from the 1950s onwards. The list of manufacturers for which he designed the *carrozzeria* (coachwork) reads like a roll of the most famous names in the world of Italian motor sport, though he also designed for companies outside Italy.

Fiat, Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, and Lancia were all among his customers at one time or another. He had also created car bodies for Opel, Volvo and Citroën.

Nuccio Bertone was born into the car body-making world in the heartland of the Italian automotive industry, Turin. His father had founded his firm Bertone Carrozzeria two years before his son's birth, and as soon as he was able, Bertone junior entered the business. At that stage the company was a family coachwork firm, but after the war Nuccio Bertone set about transforming it from a business conducted on an artisan scale into a sophisticated industrial plant, capable of operating in international markets.



He gradually took car design away from the rounded forms that were the norm in the postwar years to produce something more angular. His first important body design, the Alfa Romeo Giuletta Sprint, appeared in 1954; only 500 were manufactured for the first production run, but the design became so popular that in the end 40,000 were built.

After that, Bertone was into his stride with the Fiat 850 Spider and the Fiat X1/9, which showed his angular characteristics. The evolution of the Bertone style continued from the late 1960s onwards with the Ferrari Dino 308 GT4, and in the series of Lamborghinis — Miura, Espada, Countach — high-speed guided missiles on four wheels, seen to best advantage in the glamorous and dramatic setting of the *corniche* between Ventimiglia and Nice. The Lancia Stratos, which won the World Rally Championship three years running, was another Bertone standard.

In the 1970s and 1980s Bertone was also involved with Volvo, for which he designed the 262C and the 780. Finally, in the 1990s came his designs for Citroën: the ZX, Xantia and Berlingo. For Opel he had been involved with the Kadet convertible.

From a small family firm Bertone grew and diversified until today the group — which includes the companies Carrozzeria Bertone, Stile Bertone, Tecnodesign and Socar-Ics — employs 1,500 workers and has an annual turnover of £450 billion lire (£200 million).

Bertone was married with two daughters. One, Jeanne, an architect by training, is in the firm's creative division; the other, Barbara, an economist, is on the production side.

THEODORE REDPATH

Theodore Redpath, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, died on January 30 aged 83. He was born on August 17, 1913.

A DEVOTED teacher, Theodore Redpath was a distinguished representative of the Cambridge English school. He worked hard and successfully to develop English studies at Trinity, where he was the first Fellow elected in his subject, while also taking his full share in general college and university business.

He exemplified — in an age of increasing specialisation — the humanist ideal of the scholar with all-round interests and abilities. He believed that all forms of art and thought could attract a developing mind, and that all branches of literature could contribute to one another. Above all, he influenced his students deeply because his learning was coupled with strong intellectual integrity and with the belief that literature, English literature in particular, could and should contribute to the enrichment of life.

Robert Theodore Holmes Redpath was born in London and educated in Cambridge. From the Leys School he went to St Catharine's College, which he entered with a Choral Exhibition, to read English. In 1934 he took a starred first in Part II of the Tripos, as well as sharing the Charles Oldham Shakespeare Scholarship. For postgraduate research, however, he turned to philosophy, gaining his PhD in 1940 with a thesis on Leibniz, under the supervision of C. D. Broad.

After his army years, from 1940 to 1946 (which included service in Intelligence), he considered making his career in the law, and was called to the Middle Temple Bar in 1948. But several colleges made heavy demands on him for supervision in English at this period; and in 1950 he was appointed by Trinity to the first teaching fellowship in English at the college. He became a university assistant lecturer in 1951, and a full lecturer in 1954.

He served the university twice as Senior Proctor, in 1954 and 1959, and was a college tutor from 1960 to 1970, besides undertaking other administrative responsibilities for the English Faculty and the Cambridge Union. But it was characteristic of him that he could, in addition, find time and energy for a variety of other interests and pursuits.

He was very sociable and hospitable. He was an unusually gifted linguist, widely read in foreign literatures and widely travelled in Europe, with a particular attachment to France and Spain. He was also a skilful pianist, a keen gardener and an energetic player of games, notably real tennis, which he helped to foster in the university.

As a student, Redpath was influenced by his admiration for I. A. Richards and F. R. Leavis; and he took pride in the acquaintances he formed, as a young man, with Russell, Wittgenstein and G. E. Moore. But he never behaved as anyone's disciple, or restricted himself to a single track of research.

His early training in the close analysis of poetic language is evident in his first book (1956), his annotated edition of Donne's *Songs and Sonets* (which he later revised and improved), and similarly, in his edition, with W. G. Ingram, of Shakespeare's Sonnets (1964) — though both works show a concern with historical scholarship that might not then have been thought of as typical of "Cambridge English". They are both editions of lasting value to students.

Another of his leading interests, within the history of criticism, is shown by his thoroughly documented introductions to two collections of contemporary reviews of the English Romantics, the first edited with Patricia Hodgart in 1964 and the second in 1973. He continued to write articles and give papers on philosophical subjects, particularly aesthetics; and he used his knowledge of languages to good effect. He drew on modern Russian scholarship for his short but perceptive book on Tolstoy (1960); and he took pains to make himself familiar with recent philosophical research for his translation of Sophocles, a labour of love.

It was a mark of the esteem in which he was held that Trinity gave a special concert in honour of his 80th birthday. But Redpath's years of retirement were far from passive. He became an entrepreneur in the wine trade; he took on visiting professorships at several universities in France, Germany, America and Japan; he published a lively personal memoir of his friendship with Wittgenstein and a study of Broad's philosophy; he had been working on an analysis of *Hamlet* criticism and more recently on revisions of his translation of Sophocles when he was overtaken by his final illness.

He is survived by his wife, the pianist Sarah Campbell-Taylor, whom he married in 1964, and a son and two daughters.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

PROFESSOR ROGER TAYLER

Professor Roger Tayler, OBE, FRS, astrophysicist, died of myeloma on January 23 aged 67. He was born on October 25, 1929.

ROGER TAYLER's PhD thesis on stellar evolution contained some of the first realistic models of how stars evolve as a result of the fusion of hydrogen into helium in their interiors. He obtained all his results on a hand-operated mechanical calculator, taking a month for a series of models which would be produced in a few minutes today.

After a year as a Commonwealth Fund Fellow at Princeton and CalTech, he moved to Harwell in 1955, where he continued to work on problems related to nuclear fusion. At that time there were high hopes of recreating in the laboratory the same conditions of high temperature and density as occur naturally inside stars and of obtaining a limitless supply of clean energy. The problem then, as now, was to contain the hot plasma without melting the container. Confinement by magnetic fields, which would hold the plasma away from the walls, was believed to be the answer, but the magnetic plasma proved unexpectedly unstable. Independently of parallel work in America and Russia, Tayler wrote a series of fundamental papers studying the problem of stabilising the fields; much of his work remains relevant today.

Tayler was educated at Solihull School, and Clare College, Cambridge, graduating in 1950 and staying on to work for his PhD under Hermann Bondi. In 1961 Fred Hoyle persuaded him to return from Harwell to Cambridge, where he was a Fellow of Corpus Christi College.

During this time, he collaborated with Hoyle and with Stephen Hawking on problems of nuclear astrophysics and cosmology. He developed an abiding interest in the origin of all the chemical elements, and was prescient in stressing the sensitivity of the amount of light elements produced in the early Universe to the precise value of the neutron half-life and to the number of types of neutrino.

Tayler was appointed Professor of Astronomy at the University of Sussex in 1967. He was an outstanding Director of the Astronomy Centre for three six-year stints.

His early work on magnetic stability in hot plasmas was later applied in a very interesting way to magnetic stars, and he continued to work on stellar evolution, nuclear astrophysics and cosmology. Most recently, he turned to a study of the chemical evolution of galaxies.

Tayler was successively secretary, treasurer and president of the Royal Astronomical Society. He was appointed OBE in 1990 and elected FRS in 1995.

His many books, especially *The Stars: Their Structure and Evolution* (1970) and *Galaxies: Structure and Evolution* (1978), were much used by several generations of students. His presidential lecture was turned into a book, *The Sun as a Star* (1996). He is survived by his wife Moya.

ON THIS DAY

February 28, 1907

The architect was Edward Mountford; the figure of Justice above the dome and the sculptured figures above the main entrance were the work of F.W.Pomeroy. The cost was about £300,000. During the Second World War the building was twice hit by bombs.

THE KING AND QUEEN IN THE CITY.

OPENING OF THE NEW CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

The ceremony of opening the new building of the Central Criminal Court was performed yesterday by the King. The building, it will be remembered, supersedes that familiarly known as the Old Bailey, and stands upon the site of what was once the frowning and fortress-like structure of the famous Newgate Prison. As the chief criminal Court in the country, and one with a long and remarkable history, a special interest at all times attaches to the Old Bailey, but the proceedings of yesterday, graced as they were by the presence of the King and Queen, possessed a significance which it would be difficult to overrate ...

The spectacular part of the proceedings was very impressive, notwithstanding the fact that the new building does not lend itself well to such a ceremony as that which was performed within its walls on this occasion. The halls — for there are two of them — in which the spectators assembled, have been constructed with a view to the convenient transaction of business, and not to the accommodation of a large number of visitors intent upon witnessing the details of a stately pageant ... Of the interior itself one can only say that, far from being gloomy and severe, it is rich to the point of magnificence. Its floors, walls, and staircases are constructed of costly marbles and alabaster ...

The address from the Corporation was then read by the Recorder ... The Lord Mayor, having received the address from the Recorder, knelt and delivered it to the King.

The King, in reply, said:-

It is a source of great gratification to the Queen and myself to preside at the opening of the new Central Criminal Court ... The building which we shall presently examine with the greatest interest is not only of handsome exterior, but is, I am confident, admirably fitted in every way for the purpose for which it is designed. The great increase in the population of the metropolitan area which has taken place in the last half century renders the old buildings far too confined for the proper performance of the duties for which they were at one time adequate; and this noble edifice, erected by the City of London entirely at its own expense, will, I am sure, amply fulfil its high purpose by giving convenience and dignity to the administration of justice in the interests, not only of the inhabitants of its immediate district, but of the vast urban population that has accumulated in the adjacent counties. The old buildings which have now been replaced were, however, of high historical interest, for they witnessed during the century of their existence a change in the administration of criminal justice far greater than has taken place in any preceding century. The barbarous penal code which was deemed necessary 100 years ago has gradually been replaced in the progress towards a higher civilization by laws breathing a more humane spirit and aiming at a nobler purpose. (Cheers) ...

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هكذا من الاصل

NEWS

Ulster deal to protect Major

■ The Ulster Unionists threw John Major the lifeline that should keep him in power until May 1 after the Government agreed to increase the powers of the special parliamentary committee that monitors Northern Ireland.

The deal was announced by the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, who made clear that he saw no point in trying to force an early election .... Page 1

Tebbit accuses 'tacky' Heseltine

■ Michael Heseltine has been accused by a former Cabinet colleague of conduct that is "tasteless, tacky if not dishonourable and self-centered beyond even the call of his profession". In a withering attack on the Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Tebbit cites as an example what he sees as Mr Heseltine's attempt to avoid National Service.................. Page 1

Rugby defence

A rugby union star who challenged his suspension won a court ruling that opens the way to similar actions against sporting bodies whose decisions affect players' livelihoods .... Page 1

Cloning inquiry

Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, asked officials to investigate whether there was a need for joint action to regulate genetics.................Page 2

Jury challenge

Michael Howard embarked on another confrontation with the legal profession by proposing curbs on the right to trial by jury and other changes to the criminal justice system.................. Page 4

Open prisoner

Valerio Viccei, the man behind the Knightsbridge safe deposit robbery, told how he swapped a cell at Parkhurst for a life of virtual freedom under the Italian prison system..................Page 5

Health costs

A judge rejected accusations by the families of four haemophiliac boys that health authorities had unlawfully refused to fund treatment with an expensive blood clotting agent.................. Page 6

Education costs

Leading universities will have to forfeit £12 million in grant to reduce cuts at less successful institutions..................Page 8

Artistic image

A sculpture incorporating nine pints of an artist's blood, a gory image of dismembered limbs and a portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley are to be shown at the Royal Academys .... Page 9

Turkey warning

A room of angry generals will today warn Necmettin Erbakan, Turkey's pro-Islamic Prime Minister, not to tamper with Turkey's pro-Western character .... Page 11

Clinton question

As the FBI broadened its investigations into President Clinton's fundraising, the most asked question in Washington was why one of his oldest allies had spilt the beans .... Page 12

Wagner family row

Two angry great-grandchildren of Richard Wagner have begun a new round in the long soap opera family feud over the legacy of the German composer .... Page 13

TV 'corruption'

France's leading television station, TFI, was caught up in corruption allegations as its chairman was charged with misuse of corporate funds .... Page 14

Royal debate

The House of Orange, one of the most popular and placid monarchies in Europe, is facing a republican assault from a powerful group of Dutch businessmen and notables .... Page 15

Flying visit down memory lane

■ Ezer Weizman left home in Haifa in 1942 to join the RAF in Egypt. Yesterday the Israeli President returned as a guest to RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire which he described as the pinnacle of his three-day visit to Britain. He could not resist pulling off his overcoat and climbing up to squeeze into the cockpit of a Hawk jet trainer .... Page 1, 3

CHRIS HARRIS

Diane Blood with her parents in London yesterday after she heard that she can take her husband's sperm abroad. Page 1

BUSINESS

Marks & Spencer: Marks & Spencer plans to open £400 million of stores around the world over the next three years .... Page 23

Films: Carlton Communications, the ITV company, has emerged as one of the leading contenders for Rank's film distribution business.................. Page 23

Cost of demerging: British Gas lost £571 million in its last full year of trading before demerging. Restructuring costs were *blamed*.................. Page 24

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 9.9 points to close at 4339.2. Meanwhile, sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 98.6 to 98.2 after it went down from $1.6338 to $1.6275 and from DM2.7587 to DM2.7500 .... Page 26

SPORT

Football: Dave Bassett left Crystal Palace to become general manager of Nottingham Forest. Stuart Pearce will continue as Forest's caretaker player-coach...... Page 44

Rugby union: Brian Ashton, formerly with Bath, received an unprecedented six-year appointment as coach to Ireland, a period that will cover the next two World Cups.................. Page 44

Golf: José María Olazábal had a 69, four strokes behind the leaders, *in the Dubai Desert Classic*. It was his first competitive round for 17 months.................. Page 44

Rugby league: Unless a possible legal challenge is successful, Central Park, the home of Wigan since 1902, looks set to become a supermarket.................. Page 41

Bold Bard: Benedict Nightingale enjoys an RSC production of the rarely seen *Cymbeline* that effectively dispels any doubts about the quality of acting.................Page 31

Faust food: In Hammersmith Jeremy Kingston ponders one of the deepest questions of our time — whither humanity? — but gets little enlightenment from a revised version of *Faust* ....Page 31

Wobbly cycle: The 2ft programme was nearly the most striking thing about *Passages*, a song cycle performance with pretensions to being a "happening" at the Queen Elizabeth Hall .... Page 32

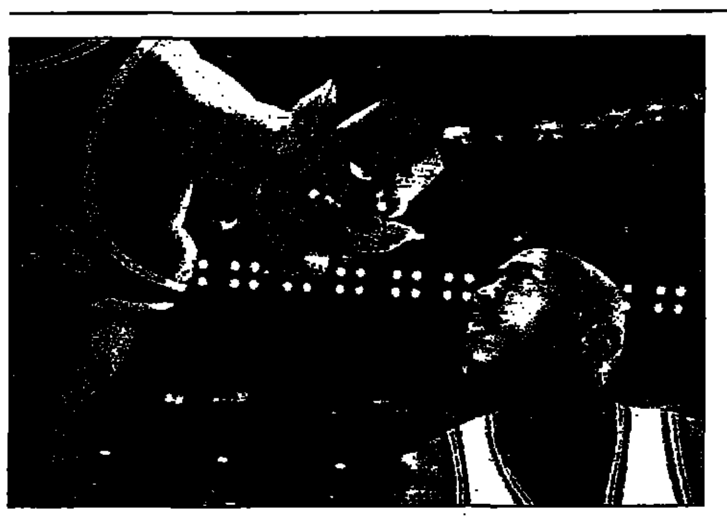
Pop promise: Biggest album disappointment of the week is U2's *Pop*, which promises much but doesn't deliver.................. Page 33

Hot ticket: Valerie Grove interviews Sam Mendes, a young man full of charm and quick intelligence, about his speedy rise to the top in the world of the theatre ....Page 17

Cool capital: It takes more than a few headlines and outlandish venues to be convinced that London is really swinging again ......Page 16

Teaching headteachers: The am*bitious idea of giving lessons in the* art of being a head should include training in accountancy and computer skills ....Page 35

League tables that lie: Why a village school in Essex took the decision to challenge the Government in the High Court ....Page 35



IN THE TIMES

■ 1015
Our magazine for young readers is offering a chance to win tickets to *Space Jam*

■ DIRECTORY
Hailing the comeback of the British film industry

Look at our public sector, which still remains one of the most important in the industrialised world. The 'elite' have instituted for their greater profit a society of unlimited responsibility in which we are all floundering — *Le Figaro*

The list of folks the president had in for coffees and sleep-overs and the rest are pretty impressive. There are people on the list whose presence not even the White House is happy to defend any more crooks, bag men, people with schemes to sell if only the right federal agency was interested. — *Washington Postx*

Preview: Jack Davenport and Juliet Aubrey with unhappy families, *Catherine Cookson's The Moth* (ITV, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on a psychedelic experience that made him groan........ Page 43

Ankara coup fever

President Demirel has no power to dismiss the Prime Minister. But he and the army officers can warn him of the dangers of his political course ....Page 19

Cash for answers

The days when only economics dons talked about money have long since passed. The issues of overall funding levels and the internal allocation between institutions now dominate academic life......Page 19

Modern Medici

If people hate the work, so be it. And if Mr Saatchi increases the value of his collection by opening it, good luck to him ....Page 19

MATTHEW PARRIS

I say to Lord Jenkins — what none of the present Cabinet can say — that his road leads inexorably to the emergence of the English Conservative Party and precisely the "little England chauvinism" that he and I so fear..................Page 18

TESSA BLACKSTONE

We are pre-eminent in almost every field of the arts and cultural innovation, what Tony Blair called "the creative economy" ....Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

The idea that there was once a golden age of honour when ministers accepted responsibility for every act of the civil servants in their department is nonsense.....Page 10

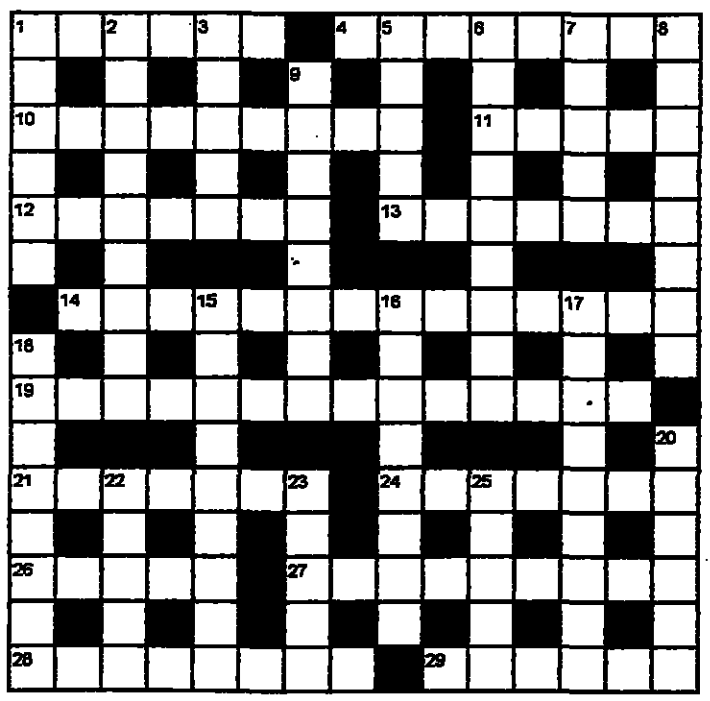
LYNNE TRUSS

What's it like in the family enclosure of a football stadium? It's brilliant. A bit draughty, and a bit weird, but brilliant........... Page 42

Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps; **Nuccio Bertone**, car body designer; **Theodore Redpath**, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge..................Page 21

The Tube; devolution; cloning; Vanumu plea; crime and punishment; Deng's funeral committee; quarantine reform..............Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,415



ACROSS

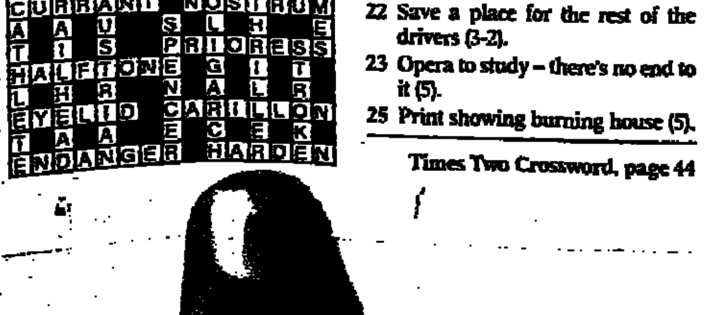
1 Tom heading East to find goddess (6).
4 Wide range of crumpets cooked (8).
10 Incense little woman with three sons a moment after (4,5).
11 Author left cover (5).
12 Be inclined to muffle beat that's noisy (7).
13 Sea creature found where boat may be moored (7).
14 Peerless debating chamber (5,2,7).
19 Group that may be produced by listing an elite (14).
21 Fool jester's doubled up? (7).
24 Recover pound pinched by lout (7).
26 Old writers found in dusty libraries (5).
27 Revolting slave in old city caught by us (9).
28 Fix a typing error initially in this language (8).
29 He is patronised by those who pull the strings (6).

DOWN

1 Greeting sailor's act of piracy (6).
2 Search for way to throw a fight (4,5).
3 Examine a protective coat (5).
5 First of patients agreed to be given a jab (5).
6 Claim this arrangement is way to control budget (4,5).
7 Open up headless fish (5).
8 Parts of motorway followed by East European citizen (8).
9 After six runs is dismissed, upsetting top players (8).
15 Thus reduced his time for game of cards (4,5).
16 Church manse's rebuilt for bishop, possibly (8).
17 Not many are involved in this, as a rule (9).
18 What tourists do in one spot after another (8).
20 One who morally judges, say, this smoker in church (6).
22 Save a place for the rest of the drivers (3-2).
23 Opera to study – there's no end to it (5).
25 Print showing burning house (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

Solution to Puzzle No 20,414



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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland Islands, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 0.77in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 5.4hr

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Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** a band of cloudy weather with outbreaks of rain will work south across all parts of England and Wales during the day. It will be followed by brighter conditions and showers, the showers mainly in the west.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be bright with blustery or squally showers in the west, and sleet or snow on hills. It will be dry with bright periods in eastern areas. Persistent cloud and rain is expected in northwest Scotland and Northern Ireland later in the day.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England:** bright morning, then patchy rain from north. Winds fresh or strong, southwest. Mild. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **E England, Central N England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** patchy rain or showers then bright and mostly dry, sunny intervals. Winds strong, gusty, southwest. Chilly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** rather cloudy, rain or drizzle clearing. Isolated showers later. Winds fresh or strong, westerly. Chilly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland:** cloudy. Rain or showers, wintry on hills. Winds strong to gale, southwest. Chilly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** rain at first then showers and bright intervals. Winds strong to gale, westerly. Cold. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **N Ireland:** bright or sunny intervals, turning showery then rain later. Winds strong to gale, southwest. Cold. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain or showers, mainly in the North. Becoming more settled in the South.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

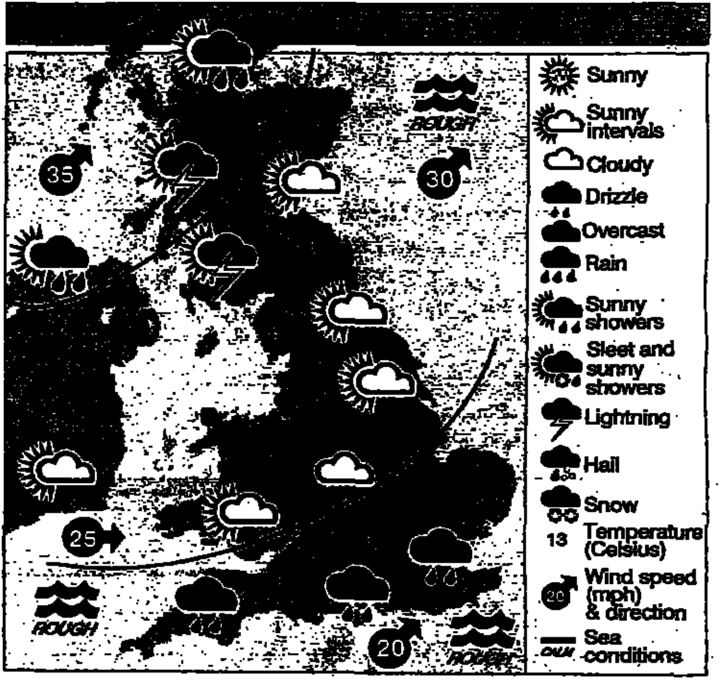
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	-	0.04	7	45	c	London	0.2	0.01	11	52	f
Anglesey	-	0.17	9	48	r	Lowestoft	-	0.02	9	48	b
Aspatria	-	0.48	9	48	r	Manchester	-	0.28	9	48	r
Aviemore	-	0.19	9	48	r	Margate	1.5	0.01	11	52	b
Belfast	-	0.34	11	52	r	Minehead	1.2	-	12	54	b
Birmingham	-	0.01	9	48	c	Morecambe	-	0.30	9	48	r
Bognor R	0.2	-	10	50	c	Newcastle	X	0.15	10	50	r
Bournem'th	1.2	-	11	52	c	Newquay	X	-	11	52	c
Bristol	-	-	11	52	c	Norwich	0.1	0.02	9	48	b
Buxton	-	0.25	7	45	c	Oxford	0.1	-	10	50	c
Cardiff	1.1	-	11	52	b	Penzance	X	-	11	52	du
Clacton	2.2	0.03	8	46	b	Poole	0.7	-	12	54	c
Colwyn Bay	-	0.05	10	50	c	Prestatyn	X	0.05	11	52	r
Cromer	-	0.04	9	48	c	Ross-o-wye	-	-	11	52	c
Eastbourne	1.4	-	11	52	b	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.77	7	45	r	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	0.8	-	11	52	c	Sandown	0.5	-	10	50	b
Falmouth	2.3	-	11	52	c	Saunton Snd	0.5	-	11	52	b
Fishguard	0.1	0.01	10	50	r	Scarboro'	X				
Folkestone	2.9	-	10	50	b	Shanklin	X				
Glasgow	-	0.50	11	52	r	Shrewsbury	X	0.01	10	50	r
Guernsey	3.2	0.01	14	57	s	Skegness	-	0.05	8	46	r
Hastings	1.2	-	10	50	c	Southport	-	0.14	10	50	sh
Hayling I.	0.5	-	9	48	du	Southsea	0.2	-	10	50	c
Herne Bay	1.6	0.01	10	50	b	Stornoway	-	0.34	10	50	r
Hove	2.2	X	9	48	b	Swanage	1.5	-	11	52	c
Hunstanton	X	0.06	9	48	sh	Teignmouth	0.6	0.01	11	52	c
Isle of Man	0.1	0.37	9	48	r	Tenby	-	-	10	50	du
Jersey	5.4	-	12	54	s	Tiree	-	0.52	10	50	r
Kinloss	0.3	0.01	10	50	r	Torquay	0.4	-	12	54	b
Leeds	0.1	0.10	9	48	r	Tynemouth	X				
Lerwick	-	0.17	6	43	sn	Ventnor	2.6	0.01	11	52	b
Leuchars	-	0.05	10	50	r	West-s-mare	X				
Littlehmptn	1.0	-	12	54	du	Weymouth	2.6	-	10	50	b

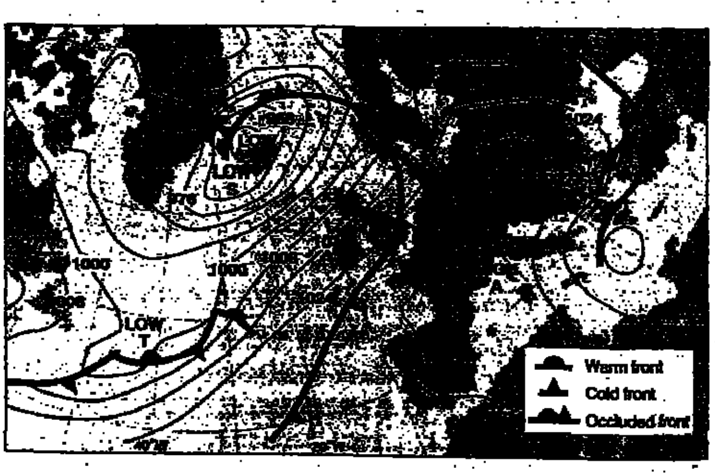
ABROAD

Ajaccio	14	57	d	Corfu	16	61	f	Majorca	22	72	s	Rome	17	63	f
Akrotiri	17	63	s	C'phagn	8	46	s	Malaga	22	72	s	S Fr'sco	14	57	f
Alex'dria	18	64	f	Dublin	8	46	f	Malta	20	68	s	S Paulo	29	84	c
Algiers	23	73	s	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Melb'rne	19	66	c	Salzburg	7	45	r
Amst'dm	7	45	r	Faro	19	66	s	Mexico C	22	72	s	Santiago	31	88	s
Athens	17	63	s	Florence	15	59	c	Miami	27	81	s	Seoul	12	54	s
B Aires	26	79	f	Frankfurt	9	48	f	Milan	11	52	c	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	20	68	f	Funchal	17	63	f	Montreal	3	37	s	St'kholm	4	39	f
Bangkok	33	91	s	Geneva	11	52	c	Moscow	3	37	r	Strasb'rg	13	55	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Munich	7	45	s	Sydney	24	75	f
Barcelona	18	64	s	Helsinki	2	36	r	N Delhi	25	77	s	Tangier	17	63	f
Beirut	13	55	f	Hong K	25	77	f	N York	9	48	s	Tel Aviv	12	54	f
Belgrade	18	64	f	Innsbrck	9	48	r	Nairobi	82	180	s	Tenerife	21	70	s
Berlin	10	50	f	Istanbul	10	50	s	Naples	15	59	c	Tokyo	16	61	f
Bermuda	16	61	f	Jeddah	24	75	s	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	9	48	f
Biarritz	13	55	c	Jo'burg	25	77	f	Oslo	5	41	s	Tunis	23	73	s
Borde'x	15	59	c	L Angels	14	57	f	Paris	12	54	f	Valencia	22	72	s
Brussels	9	48	c	L Palmas	21	70	s	Peking	3	37	c	Vanc'ver	7	45	s
Budapest	14	57	c	Le Touqt	10	50	s	Perth	42	108	s	Venice	10	50	c
Cairo	18	64	f	Lisbon	18	64	f	Prague	10	50	f	Vienna	13	55	f
Cape Tn	21	70	s	Locarno	9	48	c	Reykjavik	0	32	c	Warsaw	11	52	c
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	6	43	f	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	15	59	f
Chicago	3	37	r	Luxor	21	70	s	Rio de J	27	81	f	Wel'ngton	20	68	X
Cologne	9	48	f	Madrid	12	54	s	Riyadh	20	68	s	Zurich	7	45	r

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: lows R and S will merge and drift northeast, slowly filling. Low T will deepen and sweep northeast. High A will gradually decline in situ



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	05.02	6.8	17.24	6.8	Leith	06.03	5.0	18.18	4.9
Aberdeen	04.38	3.8	16.53	3.9	Liverpool	02.15	8.7	14.29	8.6
Avonmouth	10.21	11.9	22.36	11.4	Lowestoft	00.33	2.4	12.59	2.2
Belfast	02.07	3.2	14.33	3.3	Margate	03.00	4.5	15.26	4.4
Cardiff	10.07	11.1	22.22	10.7	Milford Haven	09.24	6.3	21.44	6.0
Devonport	08.53	5.1	21.11	4.9	Newquay	08.18	6.3	20.39	6.1
Dover	01.53	6.3	14.10	6.1	Oban	08.43	3.5	21.12	3.4
Dublin (N Wall)	02.49	3.6	15.16	3.8	Penzance	07.44	5.0	20.04	4.9
Falmouth	08.24	4.9	20.42	4.7	Portland	10.04	1.7	22.24	1.6
Greenock	03.51	3.1	15.52	3.2	Portsmouth	02.24	4.4	14.39	4.3
Harwich	02.56	3.7	15.19	3.6	Shoreham	02.02	5.7	14.22	5.5
Holyhead	01.26	5.1	13.42	5.1	Southampton	01.50	4.2	14.04	4.1
Hull (Albert D)	09.37	8.0	21.51	8.0	Swansea	09.24	8.3	21.47	8.1
Ilfracombe	09.07	8.3	21.26	8.0	Tees	07.02	4.8	19.15	4.8
King's Lynn	09.34	5.9	21.45	6.0	Walton-on-N	02.50	3.8	15.12	3.8

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Sun rises: 6.46 am
Sun sets: 5.39 pm
Moon sets 8.18 am
Moon rises -
Last quarter March 2

London 5.39 pm to 6.46 am
Bristol 6.49 pm to 6.56 am
Edinburgh 5.45 pm to 7.04 am
Manchester 5.45 pm to 6.57 am
Penzance 6.03 pm to 7.06 am

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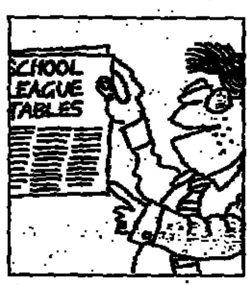

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League tables can give the wrong picture
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Henman's ranking will fall after defeat by Korda
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28 1997

M&S lays out plans for £400m overseas shops spree

By Sarah Cunningham

MARKS & SPENCER is to open its largest franchise store next month and is planning an ambitious £400 million programme of store openings around the world over the next three years.

The new 31,000 sq ft Istanbul store is the second to be opened there and is four times the size of the existing store. It will open on March 21 and will be run by Turkpetrol Holdings, M&S's Turkish franchise partner.

Keith Oates, deputy chairman of Marks & Spencer, said: "We have really pressed the accelerator on overseas expansion." In Europe, new openings are likely in Luxembourg and Belgium, while in Germany, where the first Marks & Spencer store opened last year, Mr Oates foresees 20 to 30 stores, with one in each major city.

Openings and store expansions are also set to continue in the UK and, because it prefers to own the freehold on its UK stores, spending on expansion is set to remain higher in the UK than abroad.

Overseas, the company is studying the Latin American market. First openings there are likely to be in Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Peru, followed possibly by Mexico. Taiwan is under consideration and, three years after deciding it was too expensive, a team has gone to Japan to look at possible sites. The company has also opened an office in Shanghai. But, Mr Oates said that it is keen not to move into China too soon, and not before customers have sufficient spending power.

Mr Oates, who last night delivered the annual UK Innovation Lecture, which is sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Confederation of British Industry and others, told the audience that Marks & Spencer is likely to have 120 franchise stores in 32 countries in four years from now.

There are now 86 franchises in 24 countries. The company has recently announced plans to open franchises in the Arab Gulf and in Australia. The next wave of overseas openings is likely to comprise a mixture of franchises and company-owned stores.

In his speech last night, Mr Oates said that franchising had been adopted because "globalisation of retailing means that we wanted to expand abroad quickly, but we had to find the right way to be successful in difficult markets. We will eventually trade in Japan, China, India and Latin America but, for different reasons, in each case the timing has not been quite right yet."

Mr Oates said that Russia and former Soviet republics were not yet included in the overseas expansion plans. But he added: "We will be in those places in ten or 15 years' time."

Abbey National to table formal bid for ScotAm

By Robert Miller
Banking Correspondent

DES JENSON

Profitable partnership: Peter Birch, left, chief executive of Abbey National, and Lord Tugendhat, chairman, yesterday

ABBEY National, the retail high street bank that yesterday reported a 20 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £1.3 billion, will today table its formal bid for Scottish Amicable, the mutual insurer.

Lord Tugendhat, chairman of the building society-turned bank, said: "We will be submitting a firm proposal. The next stage will be a discussion period, with final binding proposals to be submitted by a deadline in mid-March. An announcement is likely towards the end of March."

The Abbey chairman declined to say how much his bid was worth but it is believed that it has been raised from its initial sighting shot of £1.4 billion to nearer the rival offer from the Prudential of £1.9 billion. NatWest announced this week that it had withdrawn from bidding because the price was too high.

Abbey National, which lifted its final dividend to 17.4p, payable on May 6, to give a 20 per cent rise in the full-year payout to 26.1p, believes that its "Scottish" card could win the day and more than double its funds under management to £22 billion.

Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, has already pledged that "no Scottish Amicable director will lose their seat on the board even if they oppose us". A similar promise was made — and kept — to Scottish Mutual directors when the Abbey acquired it in 1992. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, is known to be taking a keen personal interest in the outcome of the ScotAm bid. If the bid were to fail the Abbey indicated that it would look elsewhere and market speculation has it that its next target could be Norwich Union, which plans to make its stock market debut in the summer.

In 1996 the Abbey saw earnings per share increase by 16 per cent, to 59.8p, but that was excluding the £61 million integration costs arising from last year's takeover of the National & Provincial Building Society (N&P). The target of driving up to half of the group's profits from businesses outside of the core savings and loan market by the year 2000 continued on track at around 42 per cent. The consumer credit division chipped in a 100 per cent profit increase at £98 million, while life assurance business was up 44 per cent to £151 million and Treasury and offshore managed an 18 per cent hike to £256 million.

On the more traditional front the Abbey increased the number of bank accounts by about 113,000, to 1.6 million, and since the launch of its own-branded credit card in February last year has opened 115,000 accounts, added to which are some 331,000 former N&P accounts.

After the co-operation agreement signed last November with Safeway, the UK's third-largest retailer, to give access to the supermarket's 6 million ABC loyalty card holders, the Abbey will next week launch a new initiative linked to Safeway's card holders. Lord Tugendhat said: "This will be followed by a debit card, a credit card, and eventually by in-store banking. The arrangement will be a key factor in substantially increasing our market share of banking, credit and debit card customers by 1999."

The market has come to expect "solid" results from the Abbey and the shares closed up 4½p last night, at 768p.

Pennington, page 25
City Diary, page 27

Societies Bill set to be law before election

By Robert Miller

THE long-delayed Building Societies Bill is finally to be laid before Parliament today and is expected to become law before the general election.

With the backing of Mike O'Brien, Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the Bill, which will give building societies more freedom to expand into new areas such as general insurance, is expected to pass through the Commons unopposed.

Labour, however, will put forward an amendment to have a clause inserted on a two-year rule to discourage so-called "carpetbaggers" from making a quick profit should a society shed its mutual status and become a bank. Mr O'Brien said: "We want to stop mere speculators from benefiting from conversions and that is why we think only members of two or more years' standing should receive bonuses. On the question of conversion, that it a matter for members."

The most controversial clause in the Bill, put forward by Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, concerns the five-year protection against hostile takeovers afforded to societies that become public companies. The new Bill will remove that protection, but only if a new bank makes a takeover bid for "any authorised financial institution".

Christopher Rodrigues, the chief executive of the Bradford & Bingley, which welcomed the Bill, said: "We do not see why converted societies should enjoy a protection which no other public company is afforded."

Brian Davis, the chief executive of the Nationwide, which is soon to become the United Kingdom's largest building society, said: "When it becomes law, the new Building Societies Act will benefit millions of customers.

"It will enable Nationwide, and all other building societies committed to remaining mutual, to continue to provide strong competition which benefits consumers."

Mr Davis added: "Importantly, it will also remove the unfair anomaly which currently allows the converting societies to embark upon an aggressive acquisition programme, whilst at the same time protecting them from takeover for five years."

B & W payout, page 24

Business Today

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4339.2	(+9.9)
Yield	3.65%	
FTSE All share	2119.74	(+3.93)
Nikkei	18021.56	(+30.64)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6971.64	(−11.54)*
S&P Composite	803.28	(−2.40)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5%)
Long Bond	97 15/16*	(98 7/16)
Yield	6.79%*	(6.78%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 5/32%	(6 5/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	113 7/32	(112 21/32)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6290*	(1.6335)
London:		
$	1.6271	(1.6339)
DM	2.7492	(2.7599)
FFr	9.2719	(9.3103)
SFr	2.4063	(2.4119)
Yen	196.70	(199.45)
£ Index	98.2	(98.6)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.6885*	(1.6910)
FFr	5.6955*	(5.6995)
SFr	1.4757*	(1.4795)
Yen	120.75*	(122.21)
$ Index	103.3	(103.6)
Tokyo close Yen 120.92		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (May)	$19.15	($19.30)
GOLD		
London close	$359.85	($355.65)

* denotes midday trading price

Gas loss

British Gas lost £571 million in its last, and most difficult, year of operation before demerging into Centrica and BG.
Page 24

Lex leaps

Lex Service, Britain's largest motor dealer, raised pre-tax profits to £51.4 million on sales steady at £1.56 billion. Vehicle leasing and importing offset slow growth in the sale of new cars from dealerships.
Page 28

ABN Amro director admits offering a job to Horlick

By Robert Miller

Horlick: suspended

A SENIOR director of ABN Amro has confirmed that the Dutch bank approached Nicola Horlick, the former Morgan Grenfell fund manager, with a job offer.

Rijnhard van Tets, a member of the managing board of ABN Amro, which yesterday unveiled annual pre-tax profits up 25 per cent to £1.6 billion, is the first director to confirm formally that the bank held talks with Ms Horlick. However, he denied trying to poach Ms Horlick's team from Morgan Grenfell. Ms Horlick was suspended from her job last month amid allegations by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell that she breached her contract by trying to persuade her successful fund management team to join her. She left saying she had been constructively dismissed.

Mr van Tets said: "I had a meeting with Ms Horlick about her herself and not her team. I am not a believer in poaching teams and I would never have done that. Nor would I try to disrupt their business."

Ms Horlick told *The Times* last night: "I did meet Rijnhard van Tets unexpectedly at the Lanesborough Hotel in London on the evening of Wednesday January 8. He basically said that he would like me to run the global asset management business of ABN Amro." The former Morgan Grenfell fund manager said Mr van Tets had been concerned because "he did not want to upset Deutsche Bank as he felt it could jeopardise the working relationship between the two banks after the introduction of a single European currency."

Carlton in running to buy Rank films

By Eric Reguly and Alasdair Murray

CARLTON Communications, the ITV company, has emerged as one of the leading contenders for Rank's film distribution business.

Carlton would not confirm or deny that it was among the bidders for the business, which was officially placed on the auction block last week. But sources familiar with the sales effort said that Carlton, whose chairman is Michael Green, is in the running.

Analysts have predicted that the pricetag could reach £100 million. But Rank has dampenend expectations by pointing out that the rights to many of the more popular films in the library have already been sold. The business, which has a book value of £22 million, could go for as little as £50 million.

The Rank catalogue is best known for the Ealing comedies, the Carry On films and other classics, such as the original *The 39 Steps* and Lord Olivier's *Henry V*. Recent successes include *Strictly Ballroom* and *The Madness of King George III*.

Rank's film distribution business is expected to be sold by the late spring.

☐ Carlton and Hampton Trust, the property developer, want to build a £200 million glass-domed leisure complex on the six-acre site occupied by Central Television Studios next to the Alpha Tower and the Crown Plaza hotel in Birmingham city centre.

RTZ-CRA harks back to Rio Tinto roots

From Rachel Bridge
in Sydney

RTZ-CRA is turning the clock back more than 100 years in the quest for a new corporate identity. The mining company is seeking shareholders' permission to change its name back to Rio Tinto, a name first used in 1873.

Rio Tinto, or red-wine coloured river, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1873 to acquire and redevelop the ancient Rio Tinto copper mines in southern Spain.

The present dual-listed structure of RTZ-CRA, resulting from the 1995 merger, will be maintained but Rio Tinto will become the name for the unified group. The name change, however, met with outrage in Australia's financial community which regard it as another example of RTZ exerting its influence over CRA, which has its roots as Conzinc Riotinto of Australia formed in 1962 from the merger of Consolidated Zinc and the Rio Tinto Mining Company of Australia.

One analyst said: "People will see this as another indication that RTZ is flexing its muscle and it will fuel the belief that the merger was really just a disguised back door takeover of CRA by RTZ."

Yesterday RTZ-CRA reported a 15 per cent drop in full-year net profits to $1.1 billion for the year to December, in line with expectations. Much of the fall in RTZ-CRA's profits for the year to December was due to lower metal prices and production problems at some of its larger operations. The total dividend rises from 31.5p to 31.71p.

Tempus, page 26

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Investors in B&W to get £1,100

By Caroline Merrell

SAVERS with the Bristol & West Building Society for more than two years will get a cash payout worth an average £1,100 under the terms of the £600 million takeover by the Bank of Ireland.

Borrowers and those who have been savers for less than two years will get 250 preference shares, estimated to be worth £1 each. The deal, announced on April 14 last year, is expected to go through on July 28 — "vesting day".

Details of the takeover will be mailed to the society's one million members on March 7. Two-year savers are those who had £100 in their accounts on April 14, 1996, and who will hold an account continuously from December 31, 1994, until the day before vesting day.

Those that benefit from the preference shares will have access to a free share-dealing facility in the six weeks after the completion of the deal.

The cash will be equivalent to 6.5 per cent of the lower of the two balances on April 14, 1996, and June 25, 1997, and any other day from yesterday until vesting day. A special meeting will be held on April 15 at the Royal Bath & West of England Society Showground, Shepton Mallet.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.20	2.04
Austria Sch	20.33	18.83
Belgium Fr	59.65	55.35
Canada $	2.337	2.177
Cyprus Cyp£	0.855	0.800
Denmark Kr	11.06	10.26
Finland Mkk	8.77	8.12
France Fr	9.67	9.02
Germany Dm	2.90	2.69
Greece Dr	447	421
Hong Kong $	13.27	12.27
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
Israel Shk	5.74	5.09
Italy Lira	2865	2690
Japan Yen	211.50	195.50
Malta	0.660	0.605
Netherlds Gld	3.239	3.009
New Zealand $	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	11.49	10.69
Portugal Esc	287.00	268.50
S Africa Rd	7.84	7.04
Spain Pta	244.00	227.00
Sweden Kr	12.80	12.00
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.35
Turkey Lira	206400	192400
USA $	1.730	1.600

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Richard Giordano, chairman of the recently demerged British Gas which ended its trading life in the red

British Gas signs off with final-year losses of £571m

By Oliver August

BRITISH GAS lost more than £500 million in 1996, its final year as a single entity. At the last official function of the now demerged group, Richard Giordano, the chairman, blamed restructuring costs for turning a £130 million pre-tax profit last year into a £571 million loss.

The group was plunged into the red by exceptional charges totalling more than £1.1 billion in the year to December 31. The renegotiation of two take-or-pay contracts and the losses on long-term gas sales deals accounted for £635 million. Restructuring prior to demerger, which included halving the workforce to 35,000, cost £424 million.

Mr Giordano also acknowledged that the group had to launch a costly fightback against "a fall in our customer service level in the last 18 months". British Gas was overwhelmed for much of last year by customer complaints about billings and cut-offs.

This month, British Gas demerged its gas supply business into a new company, Centrica, and changed the name of its remaining gas transport and storage business to BG. Centrica had a pro forma loss of £1 billion last year and BG made a pro forma profit of £381 million.

British Gas shareholders will receive an unchanged dividend of 14.5p a share, due on July 2, but Mr Giordano gave warning that the dividend level is certain to come down over the next few years.

Earnings per share of 2.9p last year turned into losses per share of 13p, and in the fourth quarter pre-tax losses amounted to £379 million, compared with a profit of £55 million in the same period last year. The 1996 results would have been worse if the excessively cold weather had not helped to increase sales. Prices in the commercial and industrial markets are said to be weak.

The group declined to give estimates of expected future losses resulting from the renegotiation of further take-or-pay contracts. It said that talks with the counterparties in those contracts are continuing but no resolution is expected until the end of this year.

BG is now gearing up for a Monopolies and Mergers Commission review, scheduled for April, into the new gas-pricing formula proposed by Ofgas, the industry regulator. Philip Hampton, finance director, said: "We have no firm indication that there is any reason for advancement or delay. We're still working on the assumption that it will hit its timetable."

The politically sensitive review could be delayed until May when the general election will have taken place.

Charity link boosts Cantab

SHARES in Cantab Pharmaceuticals yesterday hit a new peak of 900p as the drug development company linked up with the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity to form a new biotechnology company (Paul Durman writes).

Cantab and MCCC will be joint owners of Phogen, which will aim to develop VP22, a protein from a herpes virus that is potentially a highly effective drug-delivery mechanism. A team at the Marie Curie Research Institute has shown that VP22 is very good at penetrating cell nuclei. The scientists hope that it could be used to treat a wide range of diseases by delivering peptides, proteins, DNA and even conventional drugs to diseased cells.

Cantab shares rose 27½p, to 900p. They began 1996 at 671p after a low of 103p in 1995.

Warning by CBI on Britain's EMU line

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

BRITISH business may be at risk if "Europhobia" on a single currency damages UK firms' access to European markets, the Confederation of British Industry will say today.

The message comes after warnings from a number of companies, including British Aerospace, Unilever and Toyota, over Britain detaching itself from Europe over economic and monetary union.

While business remains undecided about whether Britain should join a single currency, UK companies, especially exporters, believe no step should be taken that would damage their ability to operate in the EU single market.

Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, will tell business leaders that the UK needs a prosperous Europe in which it can flourish economically. He will say: "We cannot afford to let Europhobia rule."

Speaking at a business breakfast in Cardiff, Mr Turner will say that if Britain decides not to be part of the first wave of EMU, the tone it strikes will be crucial.

If, even after deciding not to join a single currency early, Britain takes a "positive approach" to it and genuinely keeps open the option of joining subsequently, then UK firms' access to the single market is unlikely to be affected.

"But if we stay out amid triumphalist assertions of our superiority and against a background of a wider Europhobia, rubbing our hands with glee at Europe's problems, we could risk isolation."

To do that would see Britain's views go unheeded, and its influence diminish. "Ultimately, our access to the single market could be at risk — to our enormous economic disadvantage."

Although CBI leaders have been attacked by Conservative Euro-sceptics for being too pro-Europe, Mr Turner will emphasise the benefits EU membership brings to business. He will point out that rather than Europe being an "economic disaster", income per head in Europe has grown faster than that in the US for the past 20 years and Europe's export performance remains strong.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Railway firm to cut jobs, say protesters

A PRIVATISED rail company plans to lay off about 1,400 staff at the two passenger rail franchises that it was awarded during privatisation, it was claimed yesterday. Campaigners against the sell-off said that MTL Trust Holdings, a bus company based in Liverpool, would cut more than 1,000 jobs from Regional Railways North East (RRNE), about 40 per cent of the workforce, and 350 from Merseyrail. Save Our Railways, a public transport pressure group that received leaked extracts from MTL's bid documentation revealing the planned redundancies, said that the cuts "would leave the railway horrendously understaffed".

MTL, which is to take over the RRNE franchise on Sunday, said that it was too early for it to comment on the exact numbers of jobs that would be lost, but it admitted that "by the end of the franchise term there will be a reduction in the level of staffing".

Partco drives ahead

PARTCO, the car parts distribution group, is paying £103 million for Brown Brothers, the UK's leading supplier of paint to car bodyshops, which it is funding in part by a rights issue that will raise £68.8 million. Partco also announced annual pre-tax profits of £10.4 million, or £11.6 million before restructuring costs, up from £7.5 million. Underlying earnings rose 22.3 per cent to 22.5p a share. A final dividend of 5.5p, due on May 30, makes a total of 8p, up 14.3 per cent.

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Icahn out of Nabisco

CARL ICAHN, the US investor, has raised about $731 million with the sale of his shares in RJR Nabisco and has apparently abandoned his year-long effort to break up the food and tobacco company. Mr Icahn unloaded his stake of 19.9 million shares at $36.75 a share, in a sale brokered by Goldman Sachs. The stake was equal to about 7.3 per cent of RJR Nabisco, whose products include Winston and Salem cigarettes, Oreo cookies, Ritz crackers and Lifesavers candy.

ITT to expand hotels

ITT CORP, seeking to thwart a hostile $6.5 billion bid from Hilton Hotels Corp, has announced plans to add 28 hotels to its core Sheraton business. The move was the second by ITT since it rejected Hilton's offer earlier this month and said it may sell non-core assets to focus on hotel and casino operations. ITT has sold nearly half its 5 per cent stake in Alcatel Alsthom, the French telecommunications company and is expected to sell its 50 per cent stake in the Madison Square Garden properties.

Whessoe bid success

THE joint Norwegian and Swiss break-up bid for Whessoe, the instrumentation company, headed towards victory yesterday when Siebe, the engineering group, said it would not increase its £46 million offer. Navia of Norway and Endress & Hauser of Switzerland, which are bidding £52.6 million, bought a further 4.44 million shares to lift their stake in Whessoe to 25.6 per cent. Siebe said it could not justify lifting its offer of 155p a share. Whessoe is expected to back the 175p from Navia and E&H.

Citicorp bonus is cut

JOHN REED, chairman of Citicorp, the US merchant bank, saw his bonus cut to $2 billion in 1996, from $3 billion in each of the two previous years. The annual report shows that his basic pay rose to $1.5 million in 1996, from $1.30 million in 1995 and $1.28 million in 1994. His 1996 bonus was 75 per cent cash, with the rest in shares. Mr Reed exercised options to buy 679,000 shares in 1996, with $40.1 million in "value realised", the market value of common stock acquired minus exercise price.

Akzo considers offer

AKZO NOBEL, the diversified Dutch chemicals company, said yesterday that it was considering making an offer for Unichema International and Crosfield, two of the four specialised chemicals businesses offered for sale by Unilever. Akzo was reporting 1996 net profits little changed at 1.32 billion guilders (about £427 million) on sales up 4 per cent to 22.4 billion guilders. The company said higher profits in pharmaceuticals and coatings were offset by falls in chemicals and fibres.

Linotype-Hell merges

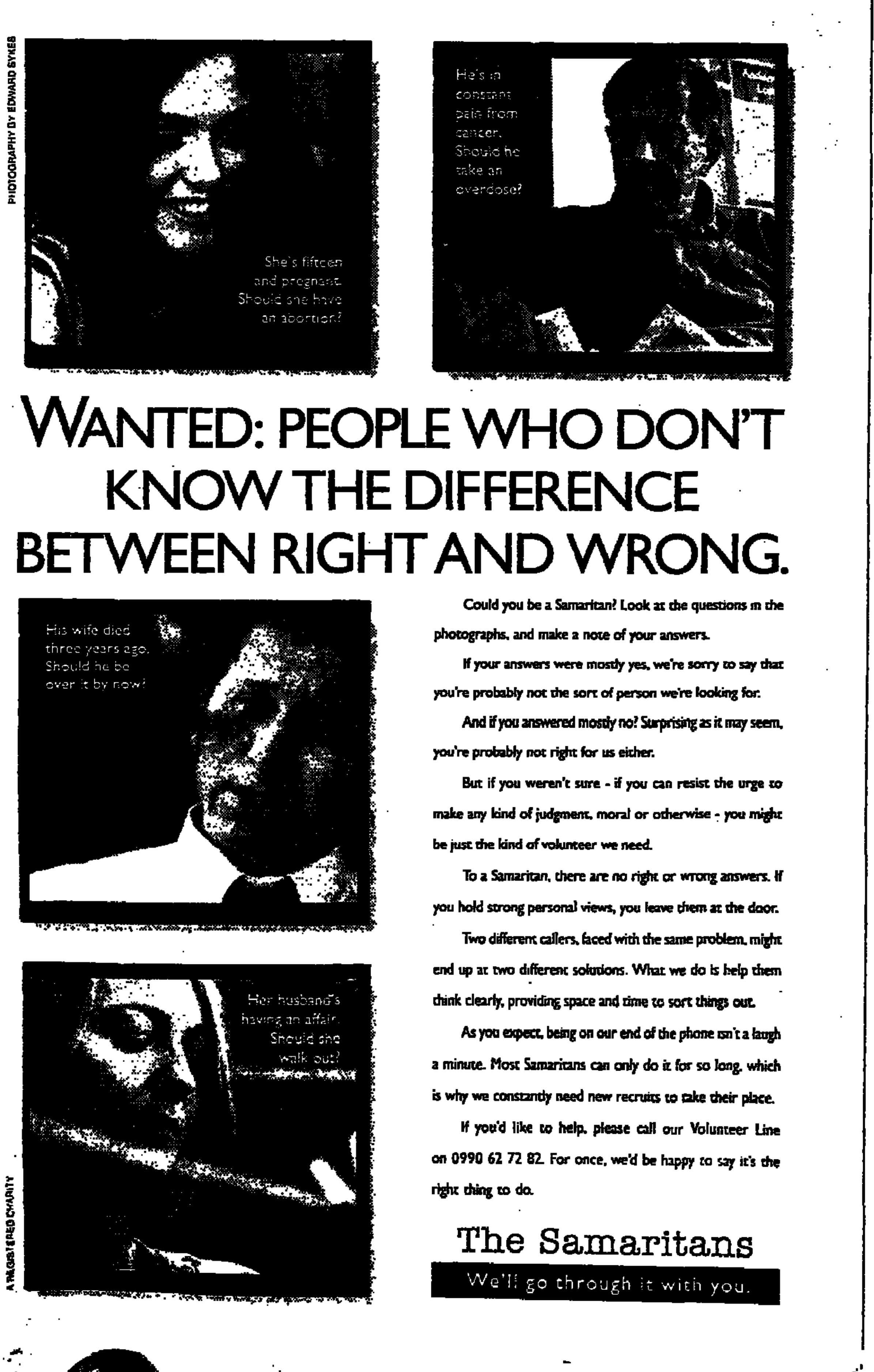
ONE of the oldest names in the British printing industry is to disappear with the loss of nearly 100 jobs. Linotype-Hell, of Cheltenham, Gloucester, is to merge with Heidelberg Graphic Equipment, the German printing machine company that acquired a controlling interest last November. Linotype operations are to move to Heidelberg's UK headquarters in Brentford, west London, and to its offices in Tamworth and Leeds. Most of the job losses will be at Cheltenham.

BTP acquisition

BTP, the UK chemicals group, has agreed to acquire PCR, a fine chemicals manufacturer, from Harris Specialty Chemicals Inc for $72.3 million. PCR specialises in organosilicon and flourine chemistry, and provides specific manufacturing capabilities and a range of fine chemicals. PCR's manufacturing facilities are based in Florida and Puerto Rico. PCR earned operating profits of £6.3 million. PCR will be integrated into BTP's biocides and fine chemicals division.

Memory's loss deepens

MEMORY CORPORATION, the memory chip producer, has done a deal with Sumitomo of Japan to help it to escape the volatile microchip market. Memory, which is switching from selling repaired dram microchips to licensing technology for repairs, said that Sumitomo will arrange at least two licensing contracts a year from 1998. Memory made a £4.5 million pre-tax loss last year (£1.95 million loss previously) after a collapse in the price of perfect chips hit the market for repaired ones.


PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDWARD SYKES
She's fifteen and pregnant. Should she have an abortion?
He's in constant pain from cancer. Should he take an overdose?
His wife died three years ago. Should he be over it by now?
Her husband's having an affair. Should she walk out?

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A REGISTERED CHARITY

Bundesbank chief warns on wrong signal for union

By Oliver August

THE Bundesbank, in its most sceptical note on monetary union in months, yesterday said Europe has not escaped the vicious circle of excessive government debt and upward pressure on interest rates.

Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, said most countries were still hemmed in by debts and deficits, threatening stability of the single currency. He said: "The vicious circle of indebtedness and higher interest rate burdens are crowding out other tasks and lead to ever higher taxes."

Speaking in Frankfurt to marketmakers at Goldman Sachs, he said the single currency had yet to win confidence. An easing of the fiscal requirements for monetary union membership would "send the wrong signal" and would create the illusion that the current state of public finances was acceptable.

Herr Tietmeyer agreed European exchange rates had become more stable but insisted the existing institutional structures set out in the Maastricht treaty were not sufficient to prevent a resurgence of inflation. He said: "Is an independent European central bank not enough to achieve price stability? This question has to be answered with an unequivocal 'nein', in my opinion."

He acknowledged that however independent, central bankers are still subject to public pressures. He said: "Therefore it is necessary that finance ministers in all member countries regain control [over their budgets] and commit themselves to achieving stability."

Tietmeyer: sceptical

Castle consortium planning to tower over rivals

BBC transmitters in new hands

By Eric Reguly

CASTLE Transmission Services, the group that is to be confirmed today as new owner of the BBC transmitter network, will use the acquisition as a springboard for media infrastructure developments worldwide. It also plans to spend as much as £200 million on upgrading the service for digital terrestrial TV.

In its first privatisation, the BBC sold the system, which transmits all of the BBC's radio and TV signals, for more than £240 million. Strong competition from bidders, including Securicor, Mercury Asset Management and NTL, the owner of the ITV companies' transmission network, ensured that the price was higher than expected.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said at a media conference yesterday that the proceeds from the sale will be used by the BBC to launch digital TV services, giving the viewer the choice of dozens of channels.

Castle Transmission is a consortium of Castle Tower, a transmission tower construction company in America, Berkshire Partners, a Boston investment firm, Candover Investments of Britain, and France Telecom. Ted Miller, 45, the millionaire Texan who is chief executive of Castle Tower, is to become chief executive of the British company.

Mr Miller will run a business with few risk factors and considerable opportunity for expansion. The BBC has agreed to remain an analogue client for 10 years and all the mobile-phone companies, including Vodafone and Orange, use the network. Growth will come probably on the digital and overseas fronts.

Mr Miller said that Castle, with the help of an army of BBC and France Telecom engineers, will soon begin to convert the BBC network to allow the transmission of digital signals. It will then compete with NTL to supply digital services to the BBC, ITV, Channels 4 and 5 and British Digital Broadcasting, the digital TV consortium formed by Carlton, Granada and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster.

Mr Miller believes that the potential for overseas growth is enormous. "Our objective is to become the largest infrastructure company in the world for broadcasting and telephony," he said. "The BBC will be our platform to launch into the international market."

☐ Long silence over Mirror flotation inquiry ☐ Integrity checks out at Safeway ☐ Not much profit in prudence for the Abbey

Unasked Maxwell questions

PENNINGTON

☐ AS A MAN who appears so regularly on television, Michael Heseltine knows a thing or two about cosmetic exercises. This is what he was accused of perpetrating when, as President of the Board of Trade, he appointed inspectors to investigate the flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers. Now, more than four and a half years later, and assuming, for a moment, a Labour election victory, there seems to be little chance of this report being completed while Mr Heseltine is still a member of Her Majesty's Government, never mind published.

But one could ask Hezza's successor, Ian Lang, what on earth is going on. The investigation was launched seven months after Robert Maxwell's death in November 1991 and in the teeth of a Serious Fraud Office investigation that everyone knew would lead to prosecutions. So clearly a report could not be published while the court case was outstanding.

It is now more than four months since everyone accused walked free at the end of the trial, yet there still seems to be no progress. Usually, draft criticisms are sent to those being investigated by the inspectors. Although something approaching that happened about a year ago, those who received the rambling conclusions have heard nothing since. Perhaps the inspectors want to do a little more research; they now hope to question those whom judge and jury have cleared. It appears that Kevin Maxwell is now about to be questioned. Up to now, the inspectors may have been a little nervous about approaching him, because he has shown an adept knowledge of both the legal system and the art of publicity.

No doubt he has scrutinised the European Court of Human Rights ruling on the Ernest Saunders case to make sure just what the DTI's men can and cannot force him to disclose. But you clearly have no chance of completing an authoritative report into the Mirror float without speaking to the one living person who knew most about how the Maxwell empire worked — or did not.

So far, the investigation into the Maxwell case has found no one guilty of criminal charges, no one guilty of misleading the market over the share support operation and no one guilty of failing to disclose vital information about how much of a mess Maxwell was in.

At present, Mirror shares stand 60 per cent above the float price. The pensioners swindled by Maxwell have had their pensions guaranteed in full — those that did not die beforehand. A small number of very unfortunate victims of various legal loopholes have lost out financially; the damage was mainly absorbed by the big City institutions.

Perhaps the DTI has reasoned that there is no case to answer? In which case the Maxwell affair will turn out to be that *rara avis*, a crime with lots of victims, most of whom were compensated, but no perpetrators.

Honest day's shopping

☐ NEVER let it be said that this column only brings bad news. We now provide statistical proof to restore one's faith in human nature. People are honest.

The proof comes from Safeway, well ahead of its rivals in allowing customers to check off the goods in their trolleys themselves rather than queuing for a till. A handy gizmo called Shop and Go is available at more than a quarter of the company's near-400 stores to be carried around and run along the bar codes on each item bought.

This is presented at the checkout, and the customer pays the total registered. The opportunities for shoplifting are obvious: an undeclared bottle of Scotch or joint of meat can take a hefty percentage off the weekly shopping bill. So Safeway institutes random checks, a little like that occasional tap on the shoulder that used to trouble you when you went through the green channel at Customs.

Anyone whose bills are out of line with the contents of their trolley can expect to be checked next time, this information being registered on their loyalty card, and if they are consistently underpaying they can expect to be told to shop elsewhere. But they will not be prosecuted for shoplifting, Safeway making the assumption that they have made an honest mistake.

Cynics might expect that random checks would turn up a larger number of people with trolleys worth more than the tallies on their gizmos, that is, about to be undercharged, than with less and so in danger of overpaying. That was the suggestion from other food retailers, some of who are now experimenting with systems of their own while Safeway rolls the gizmo out in more stores.

But the figures gathered over the 18 months the system has been in operation show only a tiny and statistically insignificant percentage swing. This is surprising because, unless you are intending to be a regular Safeway shopper, the self-checking system makes occasional shoplifting quite easy. There is a small chance of being caught, and no chance of being punished — a bit like most other forms of crime, come to think of it. But the huge majority of people are still honest. Enjoy your day.

Getting rid of one Abbey habit

☐ ALMOST through the banks' reporting season, and a bumpy ride it has been. Two of the biggest, NatWest and Barclays, saw sharp, and not always justified, share price falls. The market may not have fallen out of love with the sector, but it is certainly becoming more choosy. Those analysts not worried about bad loans if the economy slows are worried about the threat from the supermarkets.

Now Abbey National, whose own figures for 1996 received a grudging thumbs up from the market yesterday, wants more than half of profits to come from non-traditional sources by the end of the decade, even if Scottish Amicable slips from its grasp. Last year these operations, including insurance, consumer credit, treasury and offshore businesses, managed 40 per cent, so the plan seems achievable. It is also understandable once you look at the Abbey's traditional business of lending on mortgages.

This ever-so-prudent business managed to raise net lending, stripping out the extra business gained by the National & Provincial, by just 2.4 per cent. The company claims to be moving away from discounted mortgages while cutting out cashbacks for customers who are remortgaging, only using this largely discredited perk to gain new business. But the cost of mortgage discounts and cashbacks still doubled to £187 million between 1995 and 1996. So much for prudence.

Back to the future

☐ THE pendulum swings, and swings back again. Just as the British Gas name disappears in favour of a brutalised BG, so RTZ is reborn in all its glory as Rio Tinto. Could this be the start of a trend? WPP ad men might not take to being rebranded as Wire & Plastic Products, but could British Oxygen Corporation again ply its trade untruncated? Imperial Chemical Industries may be politically incorrect, but why not London & Scottish Marine Oil? Could we please, please have back British Insulated Callender's Cables?

British Land to raise £220m for venture with GUS

By Carl Mortished

BRITISH LAND is raising £220 million in a share issue to fund its investment in a billion pound retail property joint venture with Great Universal Stores.

The property group, run by John Ritblat, is spending £200 million for a half interest in a portfolio of high street shops currently owned by GUS and valued at £960 million.

The joint venture is to be financed with £400 million of equity and £560 million of debt but, for a period of about a year, GUS is financing the venture by taking a £500 million loan note in return for injecting the properties into the joint venture. On completion the retailer will also be paid £200 million by British Land for its share of the equity. Funding will be sought from banks on a non-recourse basis to repay the GUS loan in due course.

GUS will receive interest on the loan and the joint venture agreement ensures that the retailer's property income in the first year will be equivalent to that of the previous year. Net rental income from the properties totals £70.8 million.

GUS said yesterday that it was selling the portfolio because it lacked the management team to make the assets perform well. British Land will receive a £1 million fee for running the joint venture, as well as its share of the equity.

The GUS properties, which are mainly freehold, comprise several shopping centres, including The Forge in Glasgow and the St Nicholas Centre in Aberdeen, as well as some offices, but 77 per cent of the portfolio is high street shops spread across the country.

The GUS portfolio will substantially boost British Land's retail portfolio, which is currently biased towards food superstores. John Weston Smith, finance director of British Land, said that a number of the properties would be sold and that performance could be improved by trading, buying in freeholds and selling sites to occupiers.

"High street shops are very much a growth area. With restrictions on out-of-town planning we think that this is a good place to invest," he said.

British Land is issuing 42.8 million shares at 520p each in a vendor placing to institutions. The joint venture has no time limit but British Land pointed out that the subordinated debt has a seven-year life. Each party has a right of first refusal if the other wishes to sell its interest in the joint venture.

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Liberty plans to expand portfolio

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

LIBERTY International, the South African-controlled investment and shopping centre group, increased *profits 7 per cent to £100 million in 1996 and said it would consider making acquisitions "if we find the right opportunity".*

However, David Fischel, managing director, said he felt "under no pressure to go out and spend money" to increase the financial services division, even though the parent company had £380 million cash.

He said it had been "a transitional year" for the group known formerly as TransAtlantic Holdings. Donald Gordon, the chairman, said the shopping centres were benefiting from "a number of favourable social trends".

Earnings per share, before exceptionals, increased 13 per cent to 19.77p (17.56p) on reduced capital after the repurchase and cancellation of 40 million shares in 1995 at 320p each. *The dividend* has been increased 10 per cent to 16p and total shareholders' funds are £2.1 billion. The net asset value increased 16 per cent to 436p (375p) or 445p (395p) on a fully diluted basis.

Sitting more comfortably: Nigel Potter, finance director, left, Claes Hultman and Alan Coppin, chief executive

Glenmorangie buys distillery from Allied

ALLIED DOMECQ, the drinks company, yesterday sold its Ardbeg whisky distillery to Glenmorangie for £7 million (Alasdair Murray writes).

Allied is selling the Ardbeg brand and maturing whisky stocks along with the Islay distillery. The company said it had made the disposal to concentrate its resources on its core brands, which include Ballantine's and Teacher's, as well as Laphroaig, its main Islay malt.

Glenmorangie said that the purchase would strengthen its portfolio of malts, which include Glenmorangie and Glen Moray. The company is aiming to regenerate the brand through an intensified marketing campaign.

Charlton tactic is to sell players

By Jason Nissé

RICHARD MURRAY, chairman of Charlton Athletic, said that the first division football club will sell players to sustain profits after floating on the Alternative Investment Market with a market value of £17.4 million.

The club, of which Michael Grade is a *non-executive* director, *is to raise £6.5 million to complete the rebuilding of its home at The Valley, and will make profits this year only because of the £2.8 million sale of Lee Bowyer to Leeds United.*

Mr Murray said that the best Charlton can hope for is to be a "yo-yo" club, winning promotion to the Premiership only to be relegated a season or two afterwards. "All these clubs who say they are going to win the Premiership are chasing a dream," he said.

The chairman said the club had made £1 million a year on average from selling players developed through its youth policy and would continue to sell players to make profit.

Charlton is the 14th football club to come to market. The 15th will be Newcastle, which is *to launch a prospectus for its float today. Aston Villa, West Ham and Coventry have indicated that they are likely to float in the next few months.*

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Whitbread shakes up leisure side

DAVID THOMAS, chief executive designate at Whitbread, launched his first big shakeup at the company yesterday — restructuring the leisure division into five units (Alasdair Murray writes).

The restaurant division, which will include Pelican, BrightReasons, Pizza Hut, TGI Friday's and Costa Coffee, will be headed by Richard Sampson. Alan Parker will be managing director of the Whitbread Hotel company, which includes the Marriott and Travel Inn brands. *The Beefeater Restaurant & Pub chain will be run by Simon Wood, while Jerry Walton will be managing director of Thresher, the off licence. Steve Philpott will continue as managing director of the David Lloyd Leisure chain.*

Euro 96 brings a final to Wembley

By Alasdair Murray

THE SUCCESS of the European football championships helped Wembley to return to profit last year, ensuring the company can pay its first dividend for four years. The leisure company reported full-year *pre-tax profits of £17.1 million (£8.1 million loss).*

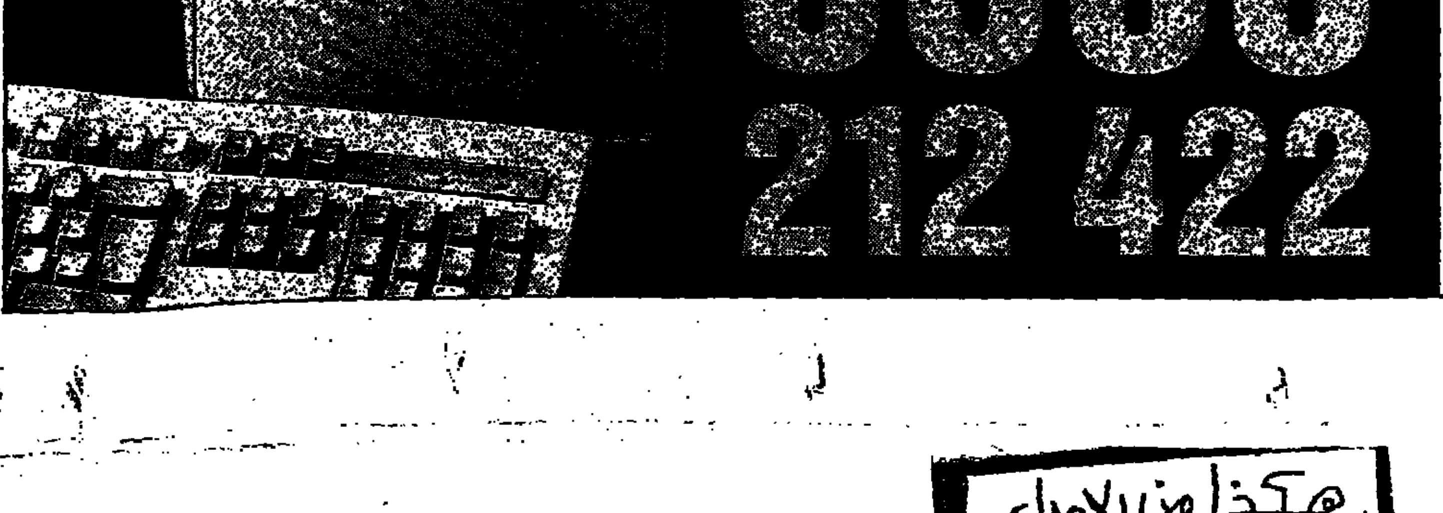
Wembley completed the restructuring of its balance sheet and renegotiated banking facilities at the end of last year, enabling payment of a 2p final dividend.

Claes Hultman, chairman, said the company is working with football, rugby league and athletics authorities to complete financial and planning arrangements to redevelop the Wembley site as the new national stadium.

The redevelopment is expected to cost around £200 million, with £120 million from a lottery grant. Wembley suggested previously it would place the stadium into a trust and operate the facilities, although the company said yesterday that no final decision on the stadium's ownership had been taken.

Profits from the Wembley complex rose 54 per cent to £14.1 million. US racetrack profits rose 35 per cent to £13.9 million because of the success of video lottery terminals at Rhode Island. Wembley has attracted the Denver Foxes American football team to its Mile High greyhound stadium, ensuring better use of facilities.

But profits from UK greyhound racing fell to £2.5 million affected by the National Lottery. Keith Prowse *hospitality profits rose to £500,000. Wembley continued to cut debt and gearing fell to 27 per cent (42 per cent).*



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In fact, spec for spec the FT1200 trounces the "equivalent" models from Compaq, Dell, HP or IBM.

Which, when you think about it, doesn't make them very "equivalent".

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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Investors shrug off US interest rate worries

IT WAS business as usual for investors on the London stock market as they shrugged off worries about a possible rise in US interest rates.

They were no doubt encouraged by the performance of the Dow Jones industrial average overnight, which halved an earlier 120-point fall. Prices in London closed at their best of the day with the FT-SE 100 index up 9.9 points at 4,339.2. A total of 800 million shares were traded.

A program trade was recorded late in the session, with several large lines of stock going through the market. It included 1.2 million **SmithKline Beecham** at 919p as the price rose 9p to 923½p and 4.75 million **Prudential Corporation** at 566½p as the price closed 4½p dearer at 572p.

The big rise in the dividend on the back of a near doubling of profits lifted **Lasmo** 7p to 246p. But Société Générale Strauss Turnbull told clients to take profits and Credit Lyonnais Laing urged a switch into **Enterprise Oil**, 10p better at 629p.

There was further heavy turnover in **Pilkington** as the price rose 3p to 142½p and 3.6 million shares changed hands. A line of 500,000 shares went through at 142p leading to suggestions that a large buyer may be stalking Britain's biggest glass producer. Bid speculation also helped **Reed International** to a rise of 22½p at £11.50 as turnover reached 1.46 million shares in thin market.

It was a day of mixed fortunes for the banking sector, with **Bank of Scotland** falling 14½p to 341p after warning that profits from BankWest, its 51 per cent owned Australian subsidiary, would fall short of forecast. **NatWest Bank** was also a weak market, losing 15p at 759p ahead of going ex the 19.4p net dividend on Monday.

A solid performance from the life and pensions operations of **Abbey National** helped it to post a solid performance last year. The group reassured brokers that it would not pay over the odds for Scottish Amicable. The shares rose 4½p at 768p.

Standard Chartered continued to reflect on Wednesday's profit numbers with a jump of 32p at 815½p. NatWest Securities, the broker, is telling clients to add to their holdings, while Nikko rates the shares a long-term buy.

Ray Nethercott saw Allied Carpets share price slip

Shares in Allied Carpets, of which Ray Nethercott is managing director, fell 1½p to 280p as Cinven, the venture capitalist that arranged the original buyout of Carpetland in 1991, disposed of its 10 per cent holding. The shares were placed by ABN Amro Hoare Govett with institutions at a price of about 275p.

British Land, the property developer, eased 2½p to 539½p as it placed a total of 42.5 million shares at 520p. The proceeds will be used to fund a joint a £960 million joint property venture with **Great Universal Stores**. British Land is paying GUS, 4½p dearer at 666p, £200 million for its stake in the venture.

Racal Electronic rose 4p to 292p as brokers decided to revise its break-up value. It follows the merger announced overnight in the US between between Freecom and US Biotics, two data companies. Brokers in London say the merger helps to crystalise the value of Racal's data interests, making the prospect of a break-up situation all the more feasible. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, has now put a break-up value on Racal of 386p a share.

David S Smith, a takeover favourite, was left nursing a fall of 10p at 242p after Merrill Lynch, the broker, urged clients to reduce their holdings. It has also cut its forecast in the paper group for the current year by £15 million to £85 million and for 1988 by £20 million to £115 million. Hopes of an auction developing in the battle for control of **Whessoe** proved short-lived. **Siebe**, 3½p dearer at 968½p, has said it will not be increasing the terms of its 155p a share offer. It follows a higher offer of 175p a share from Navia, of Norway, and Endress & Hauser, a Swiss company. Whessoe was unchanged at 175p

The slowdown in sales of personal computers has hit **Memory Corporation**, where losses last year grew from £1.95 million to £4.5 million. The price fell 7p to 45½p.

Pace Micro Technology slipped another 1p to 85p, stretching the loss of the past two days to 72p. It follows the group's second profits warning in less than a month and the departure of the chief executive.

It was the first day of trading for a clutch of new companies. **Nord Anglia Education Group** was placed at 140p and opened at 157p. The price touched a peak of 166½p before closing at 164½p, a premium of 24½p. **Howle Holdings** made its debut opening just ½p higher following a placing at 28p. The price closed at 30p, a premium of 2p.

Hanover International, the hotelier, was steady at 159p. Whispers in the Square Mile suggest the group is poised to make a sizeable acquisition.

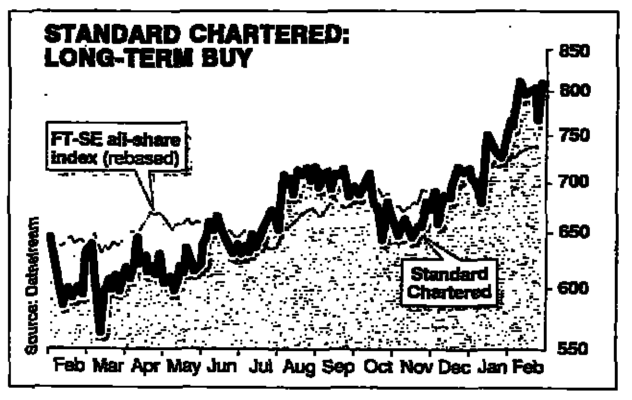
Wedderburn Securities, the property developer that is listed on the AIM, was suspended at 24½p. It has agreed to acquire an oil trading company. Trading in the shares has been frozen until the deal can be finalised.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** There was a sharp flattening of the yield curve as shorter-dated issues remained overshadowed by comments from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, about US interest rates.

Prices made a cautious start and were in danger of accelerating the losses after publication of worse than expected US durable goods numbers. But perversely, investors saw this as an opportunity to buy the market. The best gains were seen among longer-dated issues where rises of about £½ were commonplace.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt put on £9/16 to close at £113 7/32. The total number of contracts completed grew to 120,000 as investors continued to roll over open positions in March to the June series. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on £17/32 at £106 5/8, while among the shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 could muster only a rise of three ticks to £104 1/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares were little changed in late morning trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 11.54 points at 6,971.64.



Source: Datastream

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	6971.64 (-11.54)
S&P Composite	803.28 (-2.40)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	19021.56 (+30.64)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	13546.60 (+1.77)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	747.15 (+3.36)

Sydney:

AO	2464.7 (-18.4)

Frankfurt:

DAX	3276.72 (+38.85)

Singapore:

Straits	2190.63 (-25.44)

Brussels:

General	11918.47 (+13.49)

Paris:

CAC-40	2629.40 (+27.23)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	939.10 (-1.60)

London:

FT 30	2870.6 (+6.9)
FT 100	4339.2 (+9.9)
FTSE Mid 250	4663.0 (+2.3)
FTSE 350	2146.9 (+4.1)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2149.57 (-2.43)
FT All-Share	2119.74 (+3.93)
FT Non Financials	2167.21 (+4.24)
FT Fixed Interest	119.67 (-0.11)
FT Govt Secs	96.34 (+0.30)
Bargains	47577
SEAQ Volume	800.8m
US$	1.6275 (-0.0063)
German Mark	2.7500 (-0.0087)
Exchange Index	98.2 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4068
£:SDR	1.1793
RPI	154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Anglo-Welsh	108½	...
Aortech	133½	- 5
C&B Publishing	175	...
Calldore Group	3	...
Calldore Warrants	1	...
Centrica (75½)	68¼	+ ½
Energy Group (525)	536½	- 7
First Russian WrtsII	510	+ 20
Howle	30	...
Infobank Intl	144	...
J Lewis Hungerford	4	...
Nord Anglo Eductn	164½	...
PSD (A/L)	284½	...
Prelude Tst	117½	- 1
Prelude Warrants	41½	...
TR Euro Gwth Wrts	59½	...
Tea Plantations Inv	102	...
Technoplast	108	- 1½
VFG	41½	...
Zicor Mining	20½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Amec	121½p (+9p)
Mowlem (J)	127p (+7½p)
Capital Corpn	213p (+11½p)
Groupe Chez Ger	278p (+11p)
Lex Service	343½p (+12p)
Cantab Pharms	900p (+27½p)
Safeway	360p (+10½p)
LASMO	246p (+7p)
Royal & Sun Al	496p (+12p)
Derwent Hldgs	499½p (+12p)
Shield Diag	555p (+12½p)
Hutch Whamp	472¾p (+10p)
Parity	477p (+9½p)
Powerscreen	622p (+10p)

FALLS:

Memory Corp	45½p (-7p)
Norbain	295p (-17½p)
Delphi	833½p (-49p)
AEA Tech	477p (-5p)
Christies	318p (-4p)
BT	429½p (-6p)
BSM	164½p (-9p)
Gold Fields Prop	138¼p (-7p)
Liberty Intl	468p (-12p)
Xenova	325p (-8p)
Andrews Sykes	500p (-10p)
Nat West	759p (-15p)
Page (Michael)	495p (-9½p)
BAT	536½p (-9p)
Danka Bs Sys	670p (-7½p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Land of hope

GUS is well shot of its property portfolio but it is less clear why British Land is so keen. The property company is buying a thousand separate assets, ranging from minor shopping centres to end of high street units. Meanwhile, the Glasgow shopping centre faces competition from a new development. It is a pick and mix portfolio left with GUS when the group exited from some of its less than exciting chain stores.

Retail is the big play in property at the moment but to say that retail is hot is as meaningful as bullish forecasts of the housing market; it all depends on what and where. Good shopping centres trade on yields of 6 per cent or less but take a provincial high street where the consumer footfall has departed for the nearest out-of-town mall and the yields could move into double digits. Planning guidelines that restrict out-of-town development are good news to owners of such assets who can enjoy the premium attached to scarcity.

Of course, British Land is aware of all this. The company hopes that a shortage of sites in big malls will cause retailers to move back to high streets and a planning bias to town centres will, hopefully, attract investment in infrastructure. A good portion — possibly 20 per cent of the properties will be sold.

British Land is currently weak in non-food retail but the frothy mall market has deterred the company from buying out-of-town centres. That is wise but the high street is a gamble in a retail market that is still patchy. British Land made a success of food retailing while doubters spurned such investments. The company could well repeat the trick but it will have its work cut out.

Partco

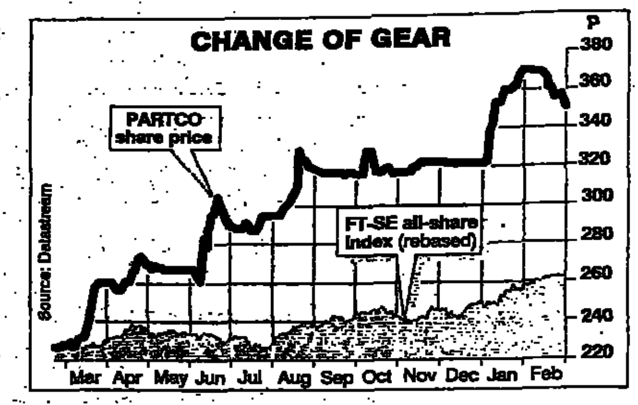
WHEN Partco floated in 1994, it set out to double in size within two or three years, an ambition that in hindsight looks modest. Yesterday's acquisition of Brown Brothers, the car components group, means the company has more than trebled in size since it came to the market.

Strategically, the latest move can scarcely be faulted. Brown's activities fit well with Partco's existing range of car parts and garage equipment. There is inevitably some overlap between the two branch networks but Partco is confident this is not a problem. Partco will have a 13 per cent share of the still highly fragmented market in motor components distribution.

The doubts centre on timing. The Brown Brothers deal comes only eight months after Partco's £56 million purchase of Serck Marston, the distributor of car radiators. Partco blithely reassured the stock market that Serck Marston is well bedded in, but, another, larger acquisition so soon makes some heavy demands on management.

The purchase will initially raise balance sheet gearing to 175 per cent. Although it should soon fall back to more modest levels, Partco's low margin business could look exposed if its trading is dented by post-election rises in interest rates.

These concerns should not prevent existing shareholders taking up their rights. Other investors can find better value elsewhere.



Source: Datastream

RTZ-CRA

THE big question is whether the eponymous Rio Tinto is in flood or a mere babbling brook. Having decided to revert to its original name, based on a Spanish river darkened wine-red with copper ore deposits, investors are merely reminded that RTZ is first and foremost a copper producer.

The copper price has been improving — at 110 cents a pound it is well ahead of the 98 cents level used by RTZ at its end-of-year provisional pricing. Bearing that in mind, RTZ should have a good first half but the question is whether the price will hold, given the huge production expansion that is in the pipeline.

RTZ's management is tired of dire warnings about oversupply that pepper analysts' notes about the company. Forecasters predict a 5 to 6 per cent expansion in production this year, in large part due to RTZ itself, which has invested huge sums in expanding its own output in Chile and Indonesia.

RTZ reckons demand will remain buoyant but a good part of its performance this year will depend on its success in getting the new Bingham Canyon smelting facility up to capacity levels of 280,000 tonnes. It produced 54,000 tonnes last year and a six-week shutdown is due in April. If it can achieve capacity in the second half the company might gain an extra $80-90 million. In a market heading for surpluses RTZ cannot afford to run anything but a tight ship.

Charlton

CHARLTON Athletic has a refreshing strategy. The first division football club is aware that it will never compete with the Manchester Uniteds and Liverpools at the top of the Premiership. So it plans to cash in on the massive influx of cash coming from pay-per-view TV by selling its best footballers to the clubs that are receiving that cash.

Richard Murray, the club's chairman, says it made an average of £1 million selling the products of its youth policy. This is just as well as the occasion of Charlton's last profit is a subject best left to archaeologists. Completing the rebuilding of the Valley, the club's home, should help, as would promotion to the Premiership, which is unlikely this year and a tough task thereafter.

Charlton needs to hold on to its best players. That means forgoing transfer profits, which begs the question of how it can earn enough to justify the £17.4 million valuation it is seeking in its AIM flotation.

The numbers do not add up. Charlton may be a nice little football team but it no more deserves to float than it does to win the Premiership. Avoid the shares.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	876-874	May	unq
May	894-893	Jul	
Jul	913-911	Sep	1008 BID
Sep	931-929	Dec	unq
Dec	946-944		
Mar	967-965	Volume: 8699	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1546-1540	Nov	1579-1575
May	1575-1570	Jan	unq
Jul	1602-1597	Mar	
Sep	1593-1590	Volume: 11073	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	302.6-00.8
Spot: 311.0		Mar	302.7-02.0
May	307.1-07.0	May	304.7-00.6
Aug	305.9-06.6	Jul	unq
Oct	303.3-02.6	Volume: 684	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 26

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	83.41	142.65	100.54
(+/-)	+1.55	+0.53	-2.11
Eng/Wales:	83.44	144.19	100.08
(+/-)	+1.55	+0.58	-2.03
(%)	+11.0	-8.0	+12.0
Scotland:	unq	139.81	104.05
(+/-)		+2.40	-1.20
(%)		+57.0	-31.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.00	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	19.45	n/c
Brent 15 day (May)	19.15	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	21.00	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May)	20.70	+0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	206 (-5)	210 (-3)
Gasoil EEC	165 (-8)	166 (-9)
3.5 Fuel Oil	85 (-4)	87 (-4)
Naphtha	204 (n/c)	206 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	164.50-64.75	Jun	168.50-68.75
Apr	166.00-66.25	Jul	n/a
May	167.25-67.50		Vol: 19760

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	19.55-19.57	Jul	18.86 BID
May	19.25-19.29	Aug	18.80 BID
Jun	19.07 BID		Vol: 28140

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	96.25	Mar	92.25
May	99.20	May	93.75
Jul	101.25	Sep	91.00
Sep	93.25	Nov	93.00
Nov	95.25	Jan	95.00
Volume: 939		Volume: 70	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	58.50
Apr	64.0	64.90
May	70.1	72.00
		Volume: 25

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Feb 78.75-79.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 97	1525	1500	1500
Apr 97	1540	1520	1520
Jul 97	1265	1265	1265
Oct 97	unq	—	1410
Vol: 358 lots		Open Interest: 3095	

Index 1494 -4

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2452.0-2455.0	3mth: 2393.0-2393.5	Vol: 1690000
Lead ($/tonne)	659.00-659.50	664.00-664.50	232175
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1201.0-1202.0	1224.0-1224.5	621800
Tin ($/tonne)	5770.0-5775.0	5820.0-5825.0	40360
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1622.0-1623.0	1653.0-1654.0	2536075
Nickel ($/tonne)	7935.0-7940.0	8025.0-8030.0	98358

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	420	29½	37	43½	6½	16	20½
(*440)	460	8	17	24½	26	39	42½
ASDA	110	6½	9½	11½	2½	4½	7
(*112½)	120	2	5	7	8½	10	12½
Boots	650	43	56	61	6	16½	22
(*687)	700	13	27	34½	26	40	46½
Br Airways	600	49	59	68	5½	15½	21½
(*630)	650	18	31½	41	24½	38	44½
BP	650	47	61	69½	6½	17½	24
(*684)	700	17	33	43½	27	39	47
Br Steel	140	14	18	19½	1½	6	7½
(*151½)	160	3½	7½	9½	10½	17½	19
C & W	500	25½	37	47	15	27½	34½
(*505½)	550	6	16½	28	46½	57	64
CU	650	38½	50½	64	21½	37	52
(*677)	700	13	37	42½	52½	65½	80½
ICI	750	15	33	42	28	37½	48
(*751)	800	4	16	23½	71	73	81
Land Sec	750	57½	60½	69	3	15½	19½
(*791)	800	16½	25½	41	20	30	43½
M & S	500	17	24	34½	14	22½	25½
(*500½)	550	2½	7	16	50	57	59
Nat West	750	22	44	54	28½	42	54½
(*760)	800	6½	24	34½	65	73	85
Safeway plc	330	33	39½	44	2½	10	13½
(*359)	360	14	21	27	12½	22½	27
Sainsbury	300	21	26	30½	5	13	15
(*312½)	330	6	11½	17	20	30	32
Shell	1050	32	45½	59	35½	49	58
(*1054)	1100	12	29½	37½	71½	80	88
Smkl Bch	900	48½	72	88½	30	38	47
(*923)	950	24½	47½	63	45½	63	71
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1800	82	131½	165	53½	79	98
(*1852½)	1900	42	89	117½	111½	133½	151

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAT Ind	500	42	50½	61	13	23	33½
(*530½)	550	15	30	34½	39½	50	60½
Vodafone	280	20	29½	35½	7½	15	19
(*290)	300	10	19½	25½	17	25	29

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	460	22	32	39½	15	23½	26½
(*462)	500	7½	15	22½	40½	47½	49½
Ladbroke	220	17	23½	27	9½	8½	11
(*233½)	240	7½	13	17	15½	18	21
Utd Bisc	220	22	27	31½	5½	8½	13
(*239)	240	10	16½	21½	15	18	23

February 27, 1997 Tot: 40025 Call: 15031 Put: 3024 FTSE Call: 5440 Put: 11934
*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	37½	47½	52½	3½	12½	15½
(*529)	550	10	19½	26½	25½	36½	39½
Thames W.	650	52	71	77½	10	29½	32
(*691)	700	22½	44	46½	28	55	57

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	220	23	27	29½	6	9	12
(*238)	240	11	16	19	15½	18	21½
Br Aero	1250	62½	94½	113½	38	54½	66
(*1265)	1300	39½	69½	89	65	80½	90½
Br Telcm	420	25	37½	39½	10	22	25
(*430)	460	7½	15½	18½	33	48½	50
Cadbury	460	43	51	54	7	13½	16
(*499)	500	17½	29	32	25	31	34
Guinness	460	17½	28	32½	19	26	27½
(*464½)	500	5½	13	17½	48½	52½	53½
GEC	360	27	33½	37½	7½	16½	19
(*373)	390	12	18½	23	22½	33	39½
Hanson	260	24	30½	33	6	8	11
(*279½)	280	12½	18½	22	14	16½	20
LASMO	240	20½	26	30	9	11½	14½
(*246)	260	12	17	21	20	22½	25
LucasVarity	200	15	21	24	8½	10½	14½
(*205½)	220	6	12½	15	19½	21½	26
Pilkingtn	140	12½	16½	—	5	8	—
(*142½)	160	6½	9½	—	18	21	—
Prudential	550	33	46½	55½	19	27½	34½
(*570)	600	12	24½	33	49	56	62
Redland	330	35½	39½	45½	10½	14½	20
(*355)	360	18	23½	30½	25½	30	35
R-Royce	220	21	27½	32	7½	12½	14½
(*232½)	240	11	18	22	17½	23	24½
Tesco	330	24	30½	36	9½	14	18
(*347½)	360	9	16½	22	26	30	33½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4339)

	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450
Calls						
Mar	149	108½	70	42	21	8
Apr	173½	135	103½	74½	51	33½
May	194	158½	127	97½	75	54
Jun	224½	191½	160	129	103	77½
Dec	331	—	260½	—	213½	—
Puts						
Mar	15	25	39½	62	91	130
Apr	41½	52½	71	92½	120½	153
May	59	72½	90	111½	138½	167
Jun	76	95½	112	131	156	182½
Dec	132½	—	166½	—	212½	—

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Abby Nat	750	29½	53½	64	23	40	47½
(*768)	800	9½	32	42	56	69½	76
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1100	54½	98½	103	19½	36	52½
(*1127½)	1150	28	62	76	42½	60	75
Natl Pwr	450	48	—	—	4½	—	—
(*493)	500	15½	34	31½	20	38½	42½

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	1000	51	73	90½	23	38	50½
(*1034½)	1050	23	47	65½	48	63	79½
HSBC	1500	81½	131	157	34	65	88½
(*1563½)	1600	31	82	108	87½	116½	139½
Reuter	650	31½	52½	62	30	33½	37
(*665½)	700	12	31	39½	50½	61½	65
Royal & Sun	460	38½	46	55	7	16	21
(*495½)	500	12	25	34½	26½	35½	41

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Circ	390	21½	29	34½	17	21½	27
(*398)	420	9	16½	22	36	39½	44½

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfishr	650	43½	55	69½	16½	26½	32
(*679)	700	17	30½	40½	44½	51½	57½

	Series	Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Br Gas	240	10½	17	—	4½	15½	—
(*244)	260	2½	8	—	17	28	—

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Dixons	500	37	54½	62	2	12½	21
(*533)	550	7½	26	35	22	34½	44½
EMI Group	1150	36	76	99	18½	47	64½
(*1162½)	1200	15½	52	74	47	71½	90
Tarmac	100	4½	7½	10½	3	6½	7
(*101½)	110	1	3½	6½	9	13	13
Hillsdwn	180	7½	11½	13½	1½	9½	10
(*187½)	200	0½	3	5½	14½	23	23½
Lonrho	140	9½	11	14½	3½	7½	9½
(*142)	160	0½	3½	6½	18	20	22
Lonrho	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
	*160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lonrho PL	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
	*160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	280	11	21½	26	3	10	16
(*287)	300	2½	12	18	15½	20½	26½
Lloyds TSB	500	24½	44½	55½	4½	16½	23½
(*517½)	550	3	20½	32	34	43	49½
Scot Pwr	323	30	—	—	0	—	—
(*351½)	353	7	—	—	7	—	—
Unilever	1600	46½	77	108	16½	49½	62
(*1626½)	1700	7	35½	66	75	109½	119½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 250856	Mar 97	113-19	113-07	112-10	113.07	122502
	Jun 97	112-05	112-24	111-26	112-23	48190
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest: 215079	Mar 97	102.92	103.65	102.89	103.64	249023
	Jun 97	102.08	102.85	102.08	102.84	40879
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest: 128587	Mar 97	130.10	130.26	129.52	129.79	83638
	Jun 97	129.70	129.70	129.00	129.39	21654
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 97	126.33	126.36	126.25	126.28	3858
	Jun 97	124.87	124.92	124.80	124.83	3401
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97	93.73	93.74	93.72	93.73	7563
	Jun 97	93.54	93.55	93.51	93.53	16716
Previous open interest: 522363	Sep 97	93.34	93.35	93.30	93.32	14191
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest: 1219222	Mar 97	96.76	96.77	96.75	96.76	24484
	Apr 97	96.78	96.79	96.78	96.79	505
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest: 294806	Mar 97	92.74	92.81	92.74	92.80	16559
	Jun 97	93.29	93.34	93.26	93.30	30014
Three Mth Euroyen	Jun 97				99.40	0
	Sep 97	99.31	99.33	99.33	99.32	90
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest: 130196	Mar 97	98.29	98.31	98.27	98.29	3435
	Jun 97	98.33	98.35	98.32	98.34	5260
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest: 35010	Mar 97	95.77	95.80	95.77	95.79	1284
	Jun 97	95.84	95.85	95.83	95.84	908
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 66630	Mar 97	4330.0	4332.0	4313.0	4330.0	9213
	Jun 97	4344.0	4345.0	4336.0	4350.0	64

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¹⁵⁄₁₆
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth n/a ; 3 mth ... . Sell: 2 mth ... ; 3 mth: ... .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5⅞	6-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6⁵⁄₁₆-6³⁄₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¼-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6¹³⁄₁₆-6¹¹⁄₁₆
Interbank:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¼-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6¹³⁄₁₆-6¹¹⁄₁₆
Overnight: open n/a. close n/a .					
Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6⅛	6⁷⁄₁₆	6¾
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6⅛	6⁹⁄₁₆-6⁷⁄₁₆	6¹³⁄₁₆-6¹¹⁄₁₆
Dollar CDs:	5.32	n/a	5.41	5.55	5.83
Building Society CDs:	6¹⁄₁₆-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¼-6⅛	6½-6⅜	6¹³⁄₁₆-6¹¹⁄₁₆

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅜-5¼	5⁷⁄₁₆-5⁵⁄₁₆	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⁹⁄₁₆	5⅞-5¾	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3¹⁄₁₆	3⅛-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1⅝-1½	1¹³⁄₁₆-1⅝	1¹¹⁄₁₆-1⁹⁄₁₆	1¹³⁄₁₆-1¹¹⁄₁₆	2-1
Yen:	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $355.60-355.90 Close: $359.60-360.10 High: $362.40-362.90
Low: $355.60-355.90 AM: $356.00 PM: $360.00

Krugerrand: $358.75-361.75 (£220.25-222.25)

Platinum: $392.00 (£241.00) Silver: $4.25 (£3.215) Palladium: $157.00 (£96.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 27	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0857-3.0929	3.0896-3.0923	⅞-⅝pr	2⅝-2¼pr
Brussels	56.60-56.81	56.65-56.75	14-9pr	43-36pr
Copenhagen	10.471-10.502	10.482-10.491	⅝-¼pr	⅝-⅛pr
Dublin	1.0281-1.0325	1.0292-1.0308	0.14-0.09pr	0.43-0.36pr
Frankfurt	2.7446-2.7512	2.7478-2.7505	⅞-⅝pr	2-1¾pr
Lisbon	275.57-276.24	275.92-276.24	⅛-⅝ds	⅛-⅝ds
Madrid	232.80-233.22	233.01-233.22	2-8ds	1-9ds
Milan	2729.2-2737.2	2732.1-2735.0	23-39ds	65-87ds
Montreal	2.2214-2.2256	2.2214-2.2235	0.53-0.48pr	1.19-1.11pr
New York	1.6256-1.6285	1.6266-1.6275	0.103-0.82pr	0.293-0.262pr
Oslo	10.896-10.955	10.936-10.954	⅛-⅛pr	⅝-⅛pr
Paris	9.2540-9.2830	9.2700-9.2774	2⅝-2⅛pr	6⅝-6⅛pr
Stockholm	12.152-12.197	12.166-12.185	⅛-⅝pr	⅝-⅛pr
Tokyo	196.56-197.22	196.58-196.81	⅞-⅝pr	2⅝-2⅛pr
Vienna	19.316-19.368	19.339-19.359	5-4pr	1⅝-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.4010-2.4077	2.4048-2.4077	⅞-⅝pr	2⅝-2⅛pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2840-1.2848
Austria	11.88-11.89
Belgium (Com)	34.83-34.84
Canada	1.3672-1.3677
Denmark	6.4420-6.4440
France	5.6965-5.6975
Germany	1.6887-1.6892
Hong Kong	7.7430-7.7440
Ireland	1.5785-1.5795
Italy	1679.30-1680.80
Japan	120.91-121.01
Malaysia	2.4820-2.4830
Netherlands	1.8983-1.8988
Norway	6.7213-6.7303
Portugal	169.47-169.57
Singapore	1.4255-1.4265
Spain	143.10-143.13
Sweden	7.4716-7.4791
Switzerland	1.4769-1.4779

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6257-1.6284
Australia dollar	2.0849-2.0889
Bahrain dinar	0.6080-0.6200
Brazil real*	1.7048-1.7092
China yuan	13.353-13.653
Cyprus pound	0.8155-0.8255
Finland markka	8.1250-8.2410
Greece drachma	425.75-432.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.5839-12.5933
India rupee	58.00-58.96
Indonesia rupiah	3864.0-3932.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4895-0.4995
Malaysia ringgit	4.0333-4.0374
New Zealand dollar	2.3540-2.3572
Pakistan rupee	64.80 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8700-5.9940
Singapore dollar	2.3156-2.3203
S Africa rand (com)	7.1930-7.2950
U A E dirham	5.9225-6.0465

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

3i	280	Land Secs	925
ASDA Gp	3,700	Legal & Gn	3,800
Abbey Ntl	4,800	Lloyds TSB	11,000
Allied Dom	8,600	LucasVarity	2,100
Argos	155	Marks Spr	4,700
AB Foods	1,000	Mercury Asset	144
BAA	4,700	NatWst Bk	8,400
BAT Inds	9,600	Nat Grid	1,200
BG	8,500	Nat Power	2,100
BOC	1,100	Next	378
BP	13,400	Orange	4,600
BSkyB	767	P & O	7,100
BTR	5,300	Pearson	2,400
BT	7,200	PowerGen	862
Bk of Scot	15,500	Prudential	7,700
Barclays	5,300	RMC	473
Bass	1,600	RTZ	4,400
Blue Circle	458	Railtrack	1,500
Boots	959	Rank Group	3,200
BAe	3,400	Reckitt Col	2,000
BA	3,500	Reed Intl	1,500
Brit Steel	3,300	Rentokil Inl	3,900
Burmah Cstl	829	Reuters	2,200
Burton	1,800	Rolls Royce	6,100
Cable Wire	9,200	Royal & Sun	4,800
Cadbury	1,200	Royal Bk Sct	3,400
Carlton Cms	1,900	Safeway	3,600
Centrica	15,400	Sainsbury	4,300
Cm Union	5,900	Schroders	305
Dixons	1,900	Scot & New	1,300
EMI	673	Scot Power	1,100
Energy Gp	2,600	Svrn Trent	1,700
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Shell Trans	2,500
GKN	1,000	Siebe	1,400
GRE	2,600	SmKl Bch	3,700
GUS	4,800	Smith Nph	668
Gen Acc	2,400	Smiths Inds	338
Gen Elec	5,500	Std Chard	4,600
Glaxo Well	3,900	TI Gp	2,400
Granada	2,300	Tate & Lyle	694
Grand Met	15,300	Tesco	10,900
Guinness	5,100	Thames W	656
HSBC	1,800	Tomkins	4,900
Hanson	2,800	Unilever	2,800
Hays	1,600	Utd Utilities	1,300
ICI	1,600	Utd News	330
Imp Tob	1,400	Vodafone	14,300
Kingfisher	3,200	Whitbread	257
LASMO	6,600	Wolseley	199
Ladbroke	2,200	Zeneca	1,100

	Feb 27 midday	Feb 26 close
AMP Inc	39½	39½
AMR Corp	81½	81½
ASA	37½	38½
AT & T	40½	40½
Abbott Labs	57½	57½
Advanced Micro	36½	36½
Aetna Life	84½	83½
Ahmanson (HF)	42½	42
Air Prod & Chem	77½	77½
AirTouch Comm	27½	27½
Alberto-Culver B	28½	28½
Albertson's	35½	35½
Alcan Alumnm	35½	35½
Allied Signal	72½	72½
Alum Co of Am	68½	68½
Amax Gold Inc	7½	7½
Amerada Hess	55½	55½
Amer Brands	53½	53
Amer El Power	41½	41½
Amer Express	65½	65½
Amer Genl Corp	44	44½
Amer Home Pr	65½	66½
Amer Intl	122	122½
Amer Stores	44½	45
Amer Standard	45½	46
Ameritech	63½	64
Amoco	85	85½
Anheuser-Busch	44½	44½
Apple Computer	17½	17½
Archer Daniels	19	19
Armco	4½	4½
Armstrng Wld	68½	68
Asarco	29½	29½
Atl Richfield	126½	126½
Auto Data Pro	42½	42½
Avery Dennison	39½	40½
Avon Products	59	59½
Baker Hughes	35½	35½
Baltim Gas & El	27½	27½
Banc One	46½	46½
BankAmerica	118½	119½
Bank of NY	39½	39½
Bankers Tr NY	84½	84½
Barnett Banks	47½	48
Bausch & Lomb	37½	37½
Baxter Intl	48	48½
Bectn Dickson	49½	49½
Bell Atlantic	69½	69½
Bell Industries	22½	23
BellSouth	45½	46
Black & Decker	32½	32½
Block (H&R)	29½	29½
Boeing	103½	104½
Boise Cascade	33½	33½
Bristol Myrs Sq	135	135½
Browning Ferris	31½	32
Brunswick	28½	29½
Burlington Nthn	84	84½
CMS Energy Corp	33	32½
CNA Financial	111	111½
CPC Intl	84½	85
CSX	47½	47½
Campbell Soup	89½	89½
Can Pacific	25½	25½
Carolina Pwr	36½	36½
Caterpillar	79½	80½
Central & SW	24½	24½
Champion Intl	44½	44½
Chase Manhat	102½	103½
Chevron Corp	66½	67
Chrysler	34½	34½
Chubb Corp	59½	59½
Cigna Corp	154½	155
Citicorp	121½	121½
Clorox	121½	121½
Coastal Corp	46½	46½
Coca Cola	61½	61
Coca Cola Ent	63½	63½
Colgate-Palm	104½	103
Columbia Gas	58½	59
ColumbiaHCA	41½	42½
Compaq Comp	81½	81½
Comp Ass Int	44½	45
Conagra	53½	53½
Conrail	103½	104
Cons Edison	30½	31
Cons Nat Gas	51	50½
Cooper Inds	44½	44½
Corestates	53½	53½
Corning Inc	37½	37½
Crown Cork	56	55½
Dana Corp	31	31½
Dayton Hudson	41	41½
Deere	42½	42½
Delta Air Lines	81½	81½
Deluxe Corp	32½	32½
Digital Equip	34	34½
Dillard Dept St	30	30½
Disney (Walt)	75½	75½
Dominion Res	39½	40½
Donelley (RR)	31½	31½
Dover Corp	50½	50½
Dow Chemical	81½	81½
Dow Jones	40½	41½
Dresser	30½	30½
Duke Power	44½	44½
Dun & Bradstreet	25	25½
Du Pont	108½	109½
Eastman Chem	55½	55½
Eastman Kodak	90½	90½

	Feb 27 midday	Feb 26 close
Eaton Corp	73	73½
Edison Int	21½	21½
Elect Data Sys	46½	46½
Emerson Elec	101	101½
Engelhard Corp	21½	22
Enron Corp	40½	40½
Entergy	26½	26½
Ethyl Corp	9½	9½
Exxon	101½	102½
FMC Corp	68½	69½
FPL Group	44½	45
Federal Express	52½	58½
First Bk Sys	81½	82½
First Union Rlty	13½	13½
Fleet Finl Grp	59	59½
Fluor Corp	62	62½
Ford Motor	33½	33½
GTE Corp	47½	47½
Gannett	80½	80½
Gap Inc Del	33½	34½
Gencorp	18½	18½
Gen Dynamics	68½	68½
Gen Electric	105½	106½
Gen Mills	66½	66½
Gen Motors	58½	58½
Gen Reinsurance	172½	173½
Gen Signal	44½	45
Genuine Parts	47½	47½
Georgia Pac	76½	77½
Gillette	81½	81½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	33½	33½
Goodrich (BF)	41½	41½
Goodyear Tire	53½	53½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	30½	30½
Great Wstn Fin	46½	46½
Halliburton	68½	66
Harcourt General	46½	46½
Heinz (HJ)	41½	41½
Hercules	46½	46½
Hershey Foods	45½	45½
Hewlett Packard	57½	58½
Hilton Hotels	24½	25½
Home Depot	58½	58
Homestake Mng	16½	16
Honeywell	73½	74
Household Intl	98½	99
Houston Inds	23½	23½
Humana	18½	18½
ITT Corp	56½	57½
Ikon Office	43	43
Illinois Tool	85½	86½
Illinova	29½	29½
INCO	35½	35
Ingersoll Rand	48½	48½
Inland Steel	19½	19½
Intel Corp	145½	146½
IBM	145½	146½
Intl Flav & Fr	46½	46½
Intl Paper	43	43½
James River Va	32½	32
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	58½	58½
Kellogg	69½	69½
Kerr-McGee	63½	64
Kimberly-Clark	106½	106½
Kmart	12½	11½
Knight-Ridder	40½	39½
Lilly (Eli)	90	91½
Limited Inc	18½	18½
Lincoln Nat	57½	58½
Litton	43½	43½
Liz Claiborne	41½	41½
Lockheed Martin	87½	89½
Louisiana Pac	20½	21½
MCI Comm	35½	36½
Manpower Inc	37½	36½
Marriott Int	53½	53½
Marsh & McLnn	119½	118½
Masco Corp	35	35½
May Dept St	47½	48
Maytag Corp	21½	21½
McDonalds	44½	44½
McDonnell D	64½	68½
McGraw Hill	52	52½
Mead Corp	58½	59
Medtronic	63½	63½
Mellon Bk	82½	82½
Merck Inc	96½	97½
Merrill Lynch	95½	96
Microsoft	99½	107½
Minnesota Mine	91½	93½
Mobil Corp	124½	127
Monsanto	36½	37½
Morgan (JP)	107½	108½
Motorola Inc	58½	58½
Natl Semi	27½	27
Natl Service Ind	37½	37½
Navistar Int	9½	9½
NY Times A	44½	44½
Newmont Mng	47½	46
Niag Mohawk	10½	10½
Nike B	75	73
NL Industries	11½	11½
Noram Energy	15	15
Nordstrom	36½	36½
Norfolk Sthn	88½	89½
Nthn State Pwr	47	47½
Norwest Corp	50½	51½
Nynex Corp	51½	51½
Occidental Pet	25½	25½
Ohio Edison	22½	22½

	Feb 27 midday	Feb 26 close
Oracle	40½	40½
Oryx Energy Co	20	19½
Overseas Ship	17½	17½
Owens Corning	42½	43½
PHH Corp	48	48
PPG Industries	55½	55½
PNC Bank	42½	43½
PP&L Res	22½	22½
Paccar Inc	65½	66
Pacificorp	20½	20½
Pac Enterprises	30½	30½
Pac Telesis	39½	40
Pall Corp	23	23
Parker Hannifin	43½	43½
Peco Energy	22	22
Penney (JC)	49½	49
Pennzoil	57½	57½
Pepsico	33½	33½
Pfizer	94½	96
Pharm & Upjhn	37½	36½
Phelps Dodge	70½	70½
Philip Morris	135½	133½
Phillips Pet	41½	42
Pitney Bowes	62½	62½
Polaroid	42½	43½
Procter & Gmbl	121½	121½
Providian	55½	56
Pub Serv E & G	28	28
Quaker Oats	36½	35½
Ralston Purina	83½	84
Raychem Corp	85½	86½
Raytheon	47	46½
Reebok Intl	47½	47½
Reynolds Metals	62½	62½
Rockwell Intl	65½	66½
Rohm & Haas	93	94
Royal Dutch	175	175½
Rubbermaid	24½	24½
SBC Comms	55½	56
Safeco Corp	42½	42½
St Paul's Cos	69	69½
Salomon Inc	56½	57
Sara Lee Corp	39½	39½
Schering Plough	79½	78½
Schlumberger	101½	101½
Seagram	39½	40½
Sears Roebuck	54	53½
Shell Trans	103	103½
Sherwin Wlms	56½	57½
Skyline Corp	24	24
Snap-On-Tools	39½	39½
Southern Co	21½	21½
Sprint Corp	44½	44½
Stanley Works	38½	38½
Sun Company	27½	27½
Sun Microsys	32½	33
Suntrust	52½	53
Supervalu	30½	30½
Sysco Corp	34½	34½
TRW Inc	51½	51½
TCC Inds	1½	2
Tandem Comp	13½	13½
Tandy Corp	49½	50½
Temple Inland	55½	55½
Tenneco	38½	38½
Texaco	100½	101½
Texas Inst	80½	80½
Texas Utilities	40½	40½
Textron	101½	101½
Time Warner	41½	41½
Times-Mirror A	51½	52
Timken	52½	52½
Torchmark	58½	59½
Toys R Us	28½	29½
Transamerica	88½	88½
Travelers	54½	55½
Tribune	39½	40½
Tyco Int	55½	56½
UST Inc	30	30½
UAL	59	59½
US Inds	36	35½
US West Comm	36½	37
US West Media	18½	18½
USAirways Group	20½	20½
USX Marathon	28½	28½
Unicom	22	22½
Unilever NV	195½	196½
Union Camp	48½	48½
Union Carbide	47½	47
Union Pacific	59½	60½
Unisys Corp	6½	6½
USF&G Corp	22½	22½
US Life	48	48
United Tech	74½	73½
Unocal Corp	38½	39½
VF Corp	69½	69½
WMX Tech	32½	32½
Wal-Mart Stores	26½	26½
Warner-Lambert	85½	85½
Wells Fargo	314½	313½
Westinghouse El	16½	17
Weyerhaeuser	46½	47½
Whirlpool	50	50½
Whitman	24	23½
Winn Dixie	32½	32½
Woolworth	21½	20½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	60½	61
Xerox	61½	59½
Yellow Corp	16	16½

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Three line up in Birch stakes

WITH 12 months still to go before Abbey National announces a replacement for Peter Birch's job, the betting is hotting up.

Among the strongest candidates is Ian Harley, 46, finance director, and 25 years an Abbey man. Andrew Pople, 38, managing director of retail banking, is also fancied, but word has it that he may have to wait until next time round. Tim Ingram, 49, managing director of the bank's European arm, is also proving a stayer. Meanwhile, Chris Wermann is the internal candidate tipped to succeed Jane Ageros as chief press officer when the latter moves to Merrill Lynch.

THERE are those among us who think Peps are an aid to indigestion. Seven per cent of people surveyed by Direct Line in conjunction with MORI mistook a Pep for an antacid tablet. Six per cent said it was a type of sports drink, 2 per cent said it was a tropical fish, and 18 per cent came clean, admitting that they didn't have a darn clue.

Goodbye Trevor

THE brain behind the Wonderbra advert has defected to a rival agency. Trevor "Hello Boys" Beattie has quit the TBWA Simons Palmer Agency after four years, yesterday switching to GGT. The advertising whiz-kid, who also created *The Professionals* Nissan Almera commercial, quit over TBWA's reported £12 million merger with Simons. Born and raised in Balsall Heath, Birmingham, Beattie earned a reported £250,000 a year at TBWA. Jay Pond-Jones, GGT's creative director, says: "I see him as a sort of creative coach to my more managerial role."

Caprice Bourret: the new Wonderbra girl

Exotic taste

PAUL ROCHELEAU is to succeed Robin Paul as chief executive of Albright & Wilson. When Dr Paul retires at the end of July, Rocheleau and his family expect to be happily at home somewhere in England. Whether his address will be in Birmingham, where A&W has its HQ, or London, has yet to be decided, however. The peripatetic Rocheleau, currently president of A&W Americas, lived in five houses in three countries during his first six years with the international chemicals group. In Birmingham on business for the next few days, Rocheleau is already developing a taste for balti curries. "I'll say it is enjoyable, but only in limited quantities," he tells me.

Ken gets blues

KEN CLARKE will see his brown Hush Puppies turn blue today. On a visit to Xerox Business Services, the Chancellor will be presented with a photograph of himself, digitally remastered using Xerox colour technology, dressed in blue suede shoes. He will be at Rank Xerox's head office in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, for the signing of a contract between Xerox Business Services and Bridge Direct, a Nottingham business in Mr Clarke's Rushcliffe constituency.

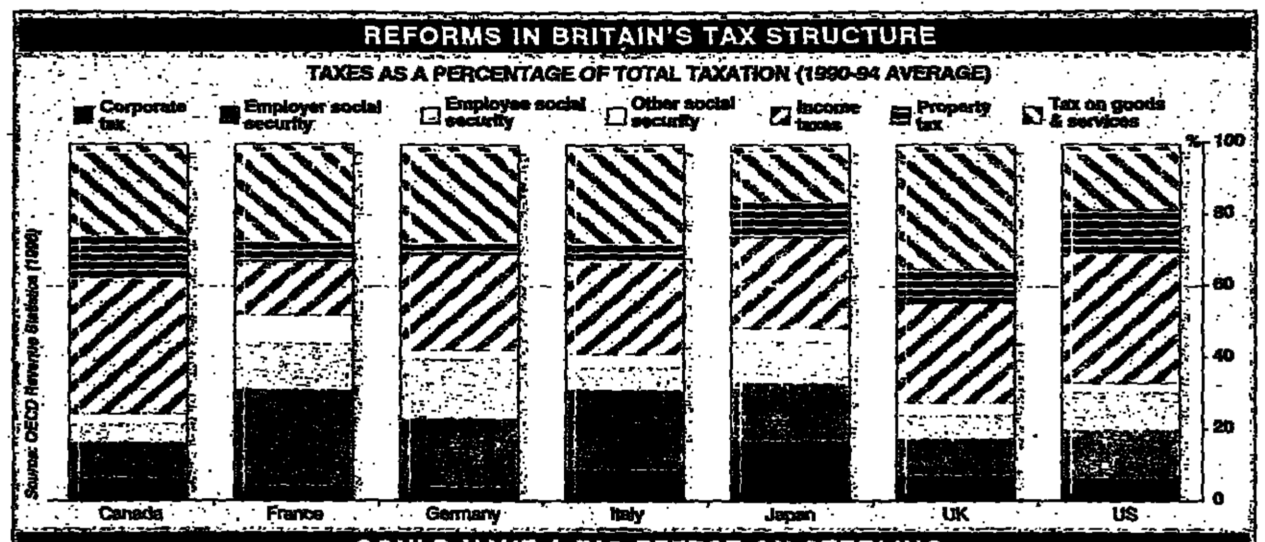
MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

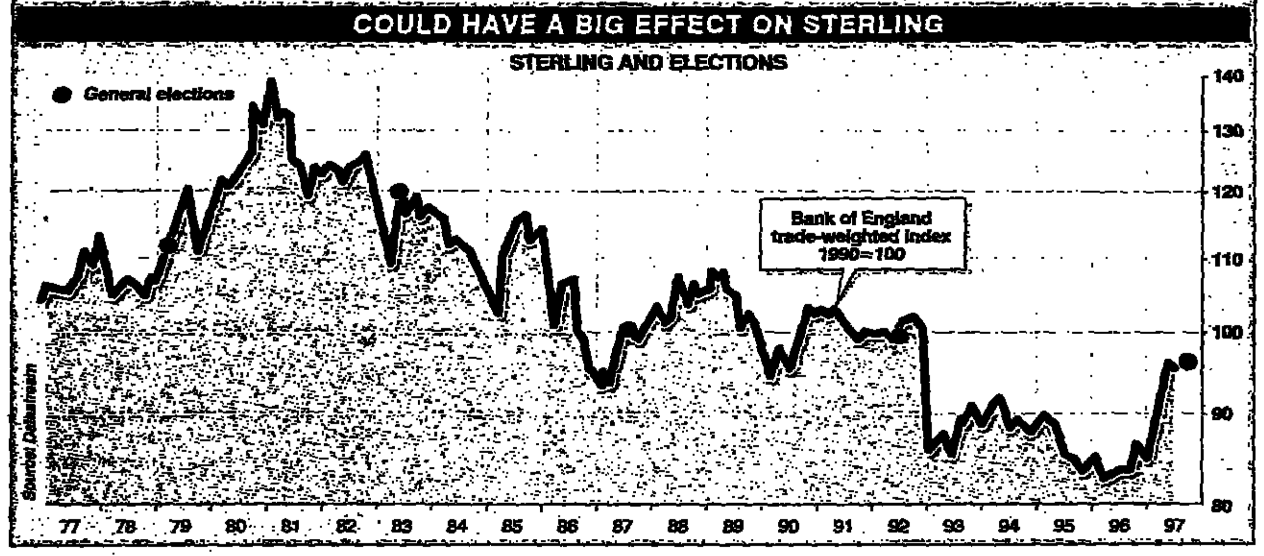
ANATOLE KALETSKY

What Brown could really do

Labour silence on key points conceals likely aims of monetary policy



REFORMS IN BRITAIN'S TAX STRUCTURE



COULD HAVE A BIG EFFECT ON STERLING

Now that Gordon Brown has completed his long series of speeches and lectures setting out the official economic policies of a future Labour government, it seems a good time to ask what Labour will really do if it wins the election. In particular it is worth reconsidering what a Labour government could mean for interest rates, sterling, taxes and the state of public finances — since the answers to all these questions seem rather different today from the ones I would have given a few months ago.

A good place to start is Wednesday's concluding lecture in the series, covering Labour's relations with the Bank of England, along with Mr Brown's interview in yesterday's *Times*. The most interesting points on monetary policy are ones that Mr Brown did not make. In proposing to "depersonalise" the monthly Ken and Eddie meetings by appointing a new policymaking council for the Bank, Mr Brown could achieve three unstated objectives.

First, he would avoid future disputes over interest rates with Eddie George, the Bank's Governor, by promising in advance to do whatever Mr George says. This was unnecessary for Kenneth Clarke, the present Chancellor, because he was able to prove that his judgment was often better than the Bank's. But for Mr Brown, who is an unknown quantity and represents a party which businessmen and investors instinctively regard with suspicion, defying the Bank would obviously be a dangerous course. What is less obvious is that Mr Brown's proposed reforms should minimise the political risks to Labour of blindly following the Bank's advice.

For the second unstated objective of his proposals is to put pressure on the Bank and the Governor to behave themselves in a way that is both economically responsible and politically acceptable to a Labour government. By "responsible" I mean the opposite of the sense that central bankers attach to this word. For central bankers (at least in Europe) the only measure of monetary "responsibility" is a low rate of inflation. But for anyone else (including central bankers in America and Japan) a responsible monetary policy means something quite different. It is a policy designed not only to achieve reasonably stable prices, but also to minimise unemployment, control cyclical fluctuations and allow the highest sustainable rate of economic growth. This is an infinitely more demanding objective than the simple official goal of keeping inflation at or around the 2.5 per cent target, but this broad range of objectives is exactly what the Tories, under Mr Clarke's economic leadership, have been successfully achieving, and it is what the Bank will be forced to strive for under Mr Brown. How will Mr Brown ensure that the Bank sticks to Anglo-Saxon definitions of monetary responsibility rather than following the example of the Bundesbank?

The answer lies in a cunning political device implicit in Mr Brown's monetary proposals. The Bank as an institution and Mr George as an individual desperately crave "operational independence". And Mr George's own position as Governor comes up for review just a year after the general election. Under these circumstances, the Bank's incentive to co-operate with the new Chancellor is clear. I am not suggesting anything cynical or improper. Any reasonable central banker normally wants to co-operate with his finance minister and government, especially one that has just received a clear democratic mandate — and outside the future European monetary union almost all central banks are mandated by their statutes to "support the general economic policies of the government". Nevertheless, it must be reassuring for Mr Brown to have in place some institutional deterrents against the over-zealous and narrow-minded monetary policies sometimes demanded by Mr George and the Bank.

Having such deterrents in place is particularly important because of the third — and most important — hidden item that I suspect may be on Mr Brown's monetary agenda. This is his newfound anxiety about an overly strong pound. Mr Brown, along with Mr Clarke and much of the British business community, seems to have woken up much earlier than I expected to the danger of allowing sterling to become overvalued. If true, this is extremely good news for Britain's manufacturers and exporters — and indeed for the economy as a whole. It also has important implications for all other aspects of economic policy.

> ‘Mr George's position comes up for review a year after the election’

On the monetary front, the Bank of England will have to co-operate with the Government's desire to maintain a reasonably competitive exchange rate by going easy on interest rates. Interest rates may not rise by even as much as the 0.75 percentage points that the markets now expect by December — if so, the pound would probably rise only slightly from current levels against the mark and fall against the dollar. To exercise such self-restraint, however, the Bank will quite rightly demand a *quid pro quo* from the Chancellor — some help in controlling inflation by non-monetary means. Specifically, Labour will have to go even further than the present Government to restrain demand by reducing public borrowing. That will mean raising taxes, not necessarily by very much in the short-run, but quite substantially over the next few years. In my view an increase in taxes of, say, £6 billion or £7 billion, equivalent to 1 per cent of GDP, would be a price well worth paying for a better-balanced economy, a more competitive pound and a long-run reduction in the burden of national debt.

Mr Brown will never, of course, admit that he intends to do this, just as the Tories will never admit that they have been pursuing exactly such a policy, with considerable success, since Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism. The important point, however, is that a strong, silent consensus is emerging across the parties and between the Bank, the Treasury and the various business lobbies that a mix of tight fiscal policy with relatively loose monetary policy and a stable to weaker exchange rate is exactly what Britain now requires.

The question which remains unanswered after all Mr Brown's speeches and lectures is how such a policy mix could be created by a Labour government which has promised not to touch either VAT or income tax. There seems to be only one plausible answer: by ending exemptions and closing loopholes, reforming the tax structure and expanding the tax base rather simply by raising the rates of existing taxes. In all these respects Mr Brown would be taking a path well trodden since the ERM debacle by Norman Lamont and Mr Clarke.

The most obvious reform, mentioned repeatedly in these columns, would be to end the dividend subsidy for pension funds, Peps and other tax-exempt institutions. This subsidy perversely encourages British companies to pay out their profits as dividends, rather than reinvesting them in expanding their operations, and accounts, at least in part, for some of the peculiarities of the British financial system — the exceptionally high share of corporate profits distributed as dividends, the high yields on British shares by international standards, the concentration of share ownership in the hands of institutions and the anachronistic dividend-discount models used to evaluate pension funds. More importantly from the Chancellor's standpoint, this subsidy costs the Exchequer £4 billion to £5 billion a year.

Removing the dividend subsidy would have no effect on corporations, whose tax bills would be exactly the same as before. The extra money would come from an increase not in corporation tax, but from an extension of the income-tax base — and a fairly progressive one which would affect the rich far more than the poor. The impact on investment would probably be positive since it would level the taxes now paid on profits retained for reinvestment (currently taxed at 33 per cent) and the money paid out to institutional shareholders as dividends (now taxed at only 13 per cent). Ultimately, the extra revenues would come from the people who contribute to pension schemes — but they would continue to enjoy a tax exemption that is currently worth £11 billion a year. Altogether, a good example of the many attractive options available to a Chancellor who can stand up to lobbying and wants to use his room for manoeuvre.

BUSINESS LETTERS

‘Glass in drink’ case not over

From Mr J. A. Gorman

Sir, I must take issue with your report that British Airways won a decisive courtroom victory against me in my "Glass in the drink" action (February 13). This action is far from decided.

His Honour Judge Nicholas Medawar, QC, struck out the action last November. Despite my counsel presenting copious medical evidence, signed by four doctors, the same judge effectively refused even to allow me to be heard under oath. Judge Medawar's display of ridicule and judicial hostility towards my counsel was astounding. My solicitors were immediately instructed to lodge notice of appeal, alleging judicial bias leading to this perverse judgment.

Finally, to clarify so-called "doubts over medical evidence", all of the various medical reports of the serious injuries sustained after the "Glass in the drink" incident is available for inspection, and confirm without doubt that such injury did occur as alleged.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GORMAN,
Parque Residencia,
Club Atlantis,
Bungalow 210,
San Eugenio, 38660,
Playa de las Américas,
Adeje, Tenerife,
Canary Isles.

Rail chaos should be a warning sign

From Mrs Brenda Benson

Sir, With the chaos at South West Trains, one of the first private rail companies, we are seeing just what a failure rail privatisation is for the travelling public.

Thousands of commuters are being left waiting on station platforms because the company chose to put its shareholders first and let 10 per cent of its train drivers go before the alternative arrangements for keeping the trains running were in place. And all this just weeks before the general election at a time when transport ministers are desperately trying to talk up rail privatisation. It makes you fear for the future of the railways if the Tories win again.

This Government destroyed the coal industry just months after the last election. How long would it take another Tory government and the new private rail companies to decide that the sums don't add up after all — and do the same to Britain's railways?

Yours faithfully,
BRENDA BENSON,
14 Percival Road,
Feltham, Middlesex.

Tesco chief with populist touch puts customers first

Terry Leahy talks about his new role to **Sarah Cunningham**

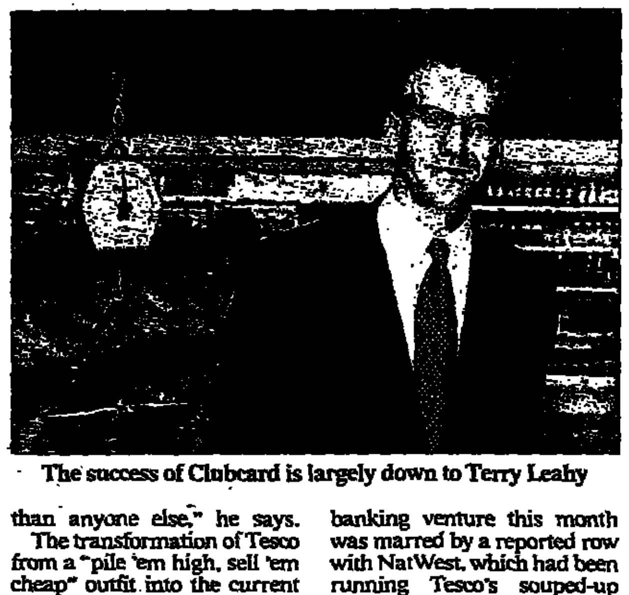
Tesco presented Terry Leahy, 41 today, with a nice birthday present last Friday when it announced, a week earlier than expected, that he was taking over as chief executive. He will always be able to say that he made it to chief executive at 40, which does have a certain ring to it.

To his credit, such vain thoughts appear far from his mind. Leahy has worked at Tesco for 17 years, latterly as deputy managing director, and has known for 18 months that he would take over from David Malpas, his boss, when he retired. He has had plenty of time to prepare and is nothing if not focused on the tasks ahead.

He agrees that Malpas and Lord McLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman who is to leave in June, are a tough act to follow, but says he is not daunted: "In the final analysis, Tesco won't be compared with the past. It will be compared with the present, in terms of how we cope with the market and environment."

The environment is currently a pleasant one. Tesco has become the City's favourite food retailer and has overtaken J Sainsbury to become number one in market capitalisation and market share. Soon — unless all the forecasters are wrong — it will be number one in profits.

Leahy, as you would expect, says that overtaking Sainsbury's is not the point. "No disrespect to Sainsbury's — they're a fine company with a strong record — but we just worry about customers. The only number one that matters is to be the shop that looks after customers better than anyone else," he says.



The success of Clubcard is largely down to Terry Leahy

The transformation of Tesco from a "pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap" outfit into the current slick, service-oriented operation began long before Leahy's time. But the change accelerated when Tesco began its move into financial services two years ago with the launch of Clubcard, Britain's first supermarket loyalty card.

Leahy is credited with much of the success of Clubcard and among his first tasks as chief executive he will have to steer Tesco through the launch of the bank that it is setting up with Royal Bank of Scotland. The bank's first credit card will come out in the summer. Mortgages, investment, insurance and savings products are expected to follow.

The announcement of the banking venture this month was marred by a reported row with NatWest, which had been running Tesco's souped-up Clubcard Plus. In spite of the grumblings from the NatWest camp, Leahy is adamant that Tesco will not have to pay any penalty or compensation for ending their agreement prematurely.

Leahy insists that the new bank will be entirely driven by customer demands. "If we are going to be successful in this area it won't be because the banks are very bad, it is only because we are going to be very good. If we can develop products and services which genuinely are convenient to use and are simple to understand and do offer outstanding value then we might have a difference there."

Leahy, who was born in Liverpool and still has a Scouse accent and a passion for Everton Football Club, is a convinced populist. In spite of his job and high income, he sees himself and his family as typical in many ways. His wife, Alison, is a GP and they live with their 8-year-old twins and 5-year-old son in Ponder's End, near the Tesco headquarters in Cheshunt. As he says: "My wife works — that is very typical nowadays — we have children, we live in the suburbs, we're short of time — that's absolutely typical."

He says that he is conscious of criticism of supermarkets and happy to justify what they do. But, he adds: "I do sometimes feel that criticism comes from quarters not close to the lives of ordinary people."

His suspicions focus on the architects who criticise supermarket designs, and particularly the typical brick and tile branches of Tesco found in Essex, adorned with Neo-classical columns and arches. "Those buildings work well in the British climate. That style, ordinary people like. It doesn't win competitions, but it is popular with the people who use them," he says.

People who have worked with Leahy say he is smart and hard working. *He also demands, and generally receives, great loyalty. This is an asset — up to a point.* As for his faults, one former colleague, who is otherwise an admirer, reckoned that he can be stubborn and "would be perfectly capable of leading the Charge of the Light Brigade". But at this stage, he added, heroic failure seems very unlikely.

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Lex prevails in a tough market to lift profits

By Fraser Nelson

SHARES of Lex Service, Britain's largest motor dealer, continued their recovery yesterday after the company said that it had overcome tough market conditions to achieve a 22 per cent increase in underlying pre-tax profits last year.

The shares rose 13p, to 344½p, after it said that its vehicle leasing and Hyundai importing divisions were offsetting slow growth from its new-car dealerships.

Sir Trevor Chinn, chairman, said that the largest vehicle manufacturers were losing their grip of the new car market as customers looked for more variety. "What is happening is that Ford and Vauxhall and Rover are losing market share," he said. "The market is more fluid because people want to be more individual, and companies are giving their employees a lot more choice [of company car]. The problem for Ford is that the Mondeo is a bog-standard car."

Lex's Hyundai importing operation broke into profit last year, making £5.4 million against a loss of £900,000 last time. The number of Hyundais registered rose by 36 per cent over the year, to 19,000.

Overall, pre-tax profits rose to £51.4 million before exceptionals from £42.2 million, on sales that were static at £1.56 billion. After a slightly lower tax rate of 27 per cent (28 per cent), earnings strengthened to 31.5p a share (20.4p).

A final dividend of 9.6p per share brings the total for the year to 16p (15p).

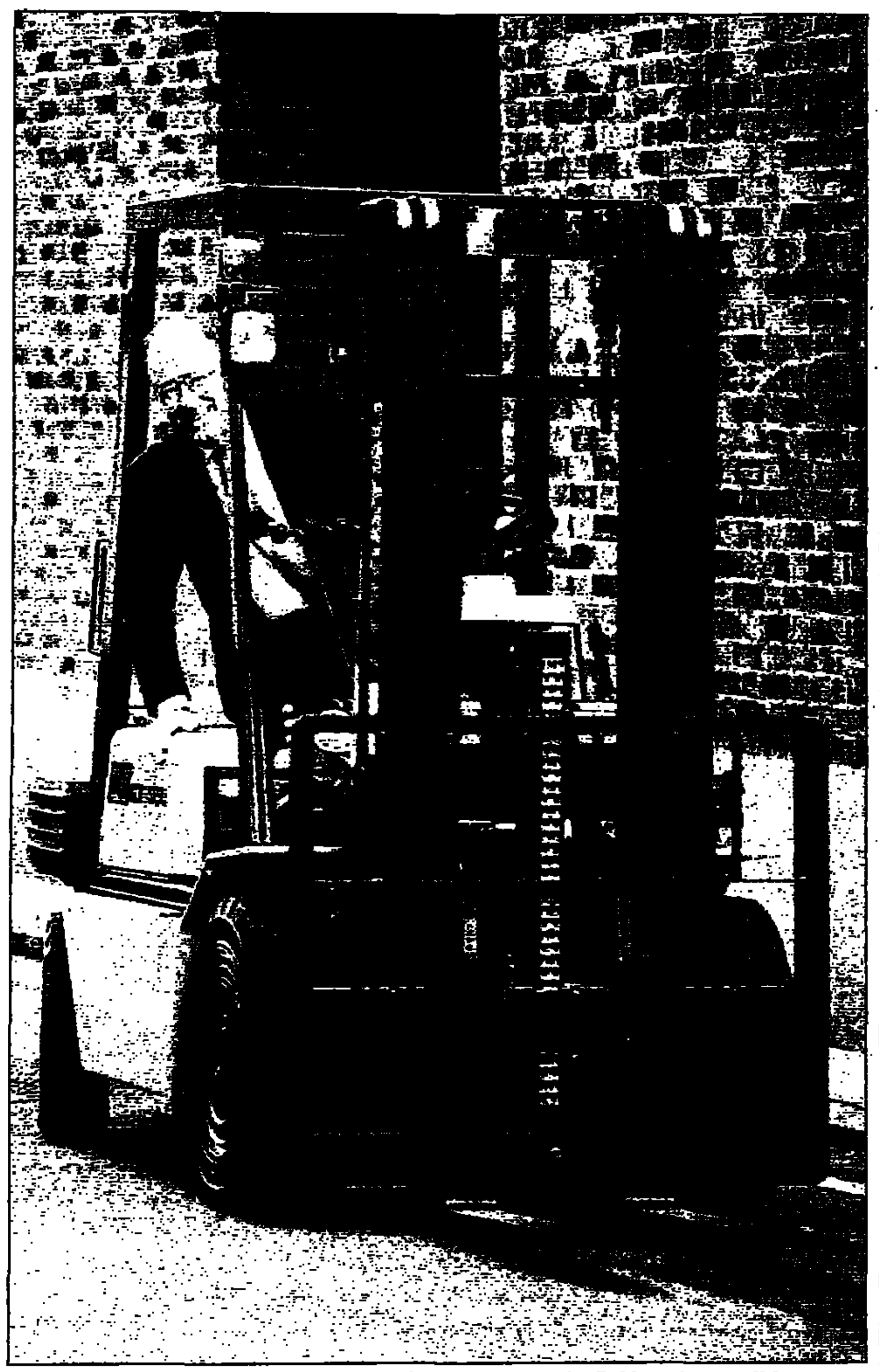
Lex's lift trucks division continued to be afflicted by the downturn in the sector. Its profits declined slightly to £12.5 million (£12.8 million). The company attributed this to the increased durability of trucks, and said that it plans to mount a recovery by strengthening its sales efforts.

The company also said that its dealerships, which lifted profits by 8.3 per cent to £14.3 million over the year, were still delivering inadequate returns. The higher profits were drawn from 62 dealerships, against the 86 that were operating at the start of the year. It has also reduced the capital employed in its retail operations, from £155 million to £119 million.

Lex said that it is still in the early stages of reorganising the remaining dealerships, and is in talks with Ford and Rover about how to continue. Its smaller and less profitable dealerships will be sold off while a few of the larger dealerships — more favoured by the car manufacturers — will change marque.

Changes in boardroom for Boots

BOOTS, the retailer, announced boardroom changes yesterday (Sarah Cunningham writes). Sir Michael Angus, chairman, has agreed to stay on for one more year to July 1998. He will then become deputy chairman and Lord Blyth, deputy chairman and chief executive, will become executive chairman. Additionally, two executive directors are to become joint group managing directors with immediate effect. They are Steve Russell, managing director of Boots the Chemists and David Thompson, finance director. Mr Russell will add international retail development to his portfolio, while Mr Thompson will add Do It All and Boots Healthcare International to his. Brian Whalan, managing director of Halfords, is to retire in July for personal reasons.



Sir Trevor Chinn, chairman of Lex, which prospered despite fluid market conditions

Scholl in move to unify its brand

By Eric Reguly

SCHOLL, the footwear company, yesterday confirmed that it has taken the first step in gaining control of the brand outside of Europe with the purchase of Scholl Latin America for an initial payment of $12.5 million.

The acquisition, reported in *The Times* earlier this month, is expected to be followed by negotiations to purchase Scholl's operations in North America from Schering-Plough, the American pharmaceuticals group.

The three Scholl companies in the Americas and in Europe have been separate entities since 1988, when Schering-Plough hived off its international operations.

Stuart Wallis, chairman of Scholl said: "The acquisition of Scholl Latin America is seen as an important step in exercising greater control of the Scholl brand worldwide and provides access to markets in Mexico and Latin America with substantial growth potential."

Scholl Latin America, which was owned by private investors, had net assets last year of $3 million and operating profits of $1.35 million. Scholl has agreed to pay an additional $5.25 million in each of the next two years, raising the potential price to $23 million, depending on the achievement of sales and profit targets.

Scholl would not comment on its talks with Schering. Ultimately, Scholl would like to own Scholl North America outright or set up a Schering-Scholl joint venture that would own the operations in the two continents.

Compensation to chief slows BSM

By Sarah Cunningham

BSM, the driving school group, has pushed its full-year profits below last year's level with a payment of £350,000 to Paul Massey, its chief executive, for loss of office.

Richard Glover, the managing director, is taking over immediately as chief executive from Mr Massey, the company revealed yesterday. No new managing director has been appointed. The company said Mr Massey, who has been with BSM for 12 years, was leaving "to pursue other interests". He will be a consultant to the group.

The compensation payment means that pre-tax profits declined 2 per cent. The figure for the 12 months to December 27 was £5.27 million compared with £5.38 million. Mr Glover said trading in the first few weeks of this year had been poor, largely because of bad weather. This time last year business was booming before the introduction of the written theory test.

As one way of tackling the flat market BSM is planning to introduce computerised driving simulators later this year. It is investing £500,000 in converting French technology and buying ten simulators for a trial in September. If successful, the simulators will be installed around the country. Mr Glover said any resulting increase in revenue will not be seen until 1998.

The final dividend is 5.06p (4.6p), payable on May 12. It makes 7.59 (6.9p) for the year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Vaux sells nursing homes subsidiary

VAUX GROUP, the brewing and hotels group, is selling St Andrews Homes, its nursing homes subsidiary, for a maximum consideration of £43.2 million. The buyer is Highfield Group, a care home group based in Edinburgh. St Andrews operates 38 care homes in the Midlands, North of England and Scotland. The net book value of the assets being sold was £40.4 million at the end of September 30. In the last financial year the business earned pre-tax profits of £3.7 million.

The consideration comprises £35 million in cash payable on completion, £5.2 million of loan notes and a payout of up to £3 million payable three years after completion of the sale. Sir Paul Nicholson, chairman of Vaux, said: "This is an excellent result for our shareholders. We have achieved full value for St Andrews, which will release resources for investment in our core businesses of brewing and pubs and hotels."

Amec takes slice of Spie

SHARES in Amec rose by 11p, to 121½p, yesterday after the UK construction and civil engineering company said that it had completed the acquisition of Spie Batignolles, in partnership with the French contractor's employees, from Schneider for Fr350 million. Amec will hold a 41.6 per cent interest in the business. Following the transaction, a further Fr112.5 million is being invested in Spie through capital increases. The offer to Spie employees resulted in about 12,000 of them contributing Fr270 million for a 58.4 per cent holding.

Hoya boost for Wales

HOYA, the Japanese spectacle lens manufacturer, announced a £10 million expansion at its Wrexham plant in north Wales. The company is building a factory that will double the workforce from 100 to 200. Construction is under way, as is recruitment of the 100 new staff. The factory will enable the company to expand its output of scratch-resistant plastic lenses, which are supplied to opticians across the UK. Hoya has operated in north Wales since 1980 and has seen its turnover increase from £9 million to £12 million last year. Further growth is expected this year.

Knitwear pay pact

MINIMUM pay rates for thousands of hosiery and knitwear workers will increase by 11p an hour to £3.20 under a deal agreed yesterday. Wages will rise by 2.5 per cent from April and workers will receive two-days' paid paternity leave for the first time. The 25,000 workers in England and Wales covered by the agreement will also receive an extra day's paid compassionate leave. The deal between the Knitting Industries Federation and the National Union of Knitwear, Footwear and Apparel Trades, will affect mainly women.

Quarto earnings ahead

QUARTO GROUP, the book publisher, achieved an 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £7.81 million in 1996, with acquisitions helping to offset the adverse impact of a strong pound towards the end of the year. Earnings rose 7 per cent to 26.5p a share. A final dividend of 5.8p a share lifts the total 10 per cent, to 8p. The shares rose 11p to 238½p yesterday. Laurence Orbach, chairman and chief executive, said major markets continue to be strong, with some evidence the British market is beginning to improve after a lengthy recession.

Slide for Samsung

A SLUMP in computer chip prices sent net profits of South Korea's Samsung Electronics, a significant investor in the UK, down 93 per cent to 164.16 billion won (£117 million) in 1996, but analysts expect a recovery this year by the world's largest memory chip maker. The company said that a freefall in prices of 16-megabit dynamic random access memory (dram) chips hampered profits. Dram sales are about 35 per cent of sales. Prices of 16-megabit dram chips fell about 80 per cent in 1996 because of global oversupply.

Renishaw lifts payout

SHARES of Renishaw rose 21p to 359p yesterday after the specialist engineering company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £10.8 million from £8.2 million in the six months to December 31. Earnings were 10.84p a share, compared with 8.89p, and the interim dividend is lifted to 2.89p a share from 2.41p. The company, which generates almost 90 per cent of sales overseas, said the record profits were achieved in spite of the recent strength of sterling. Sales rose 11 per cent to £39.7 million.

FII passes interim

FII GROUP, the manufacturer and supplier of footwear to Marks & Spencer, is passing the interim dividend despite reducing losses to £327,000 before tax from £3.6 million in the half-year to the end of November. Losses were 1.9p a share, down from 15.6p previously. Last year the company paid an interim dividend of 6p but did not pay a final dividend. Shares of FII were unchanged at 100p yesterday. In September the company raised £7.3 million from a rights issue of new shares at 105p each.

Green Property up

GREEN PROPERTY, the property development company based in the Irish Republic, reported a 34 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to Ir£8.5 million in 1996. Green's Irish portfolio benefited from the general rise in property prices in the Republic. In the UK a string of acquisitions made during 1996, valued at more than Ir£120 million, performed well. Earnings rose almost 14 per cent to Ir13.73p a share. Net assets rose to Ir274p a share from Ir194p. A final dividend of Ir3.3p lifts the total almost 9 per cent to Ir4.6p.

Signet does new deal with banks

By Sarah Cunningham

SIGNET, the former Ratners jewellery retailing company, took a step towards resolving its complex financial problems yesterday with the announcement of new long-term financing arrangements.

The group has set up a three-year $360 million credit facility with a new syndicate of banks. The new syndicate is led by BZW, Midland Bank, Banque Paribas and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

This means that the banks which were involved in the group's existing $450 million two-year facility agreement, which was due to expire at the end of June, will be repaid in full.

The company said that talks aimed at a reconstruction of its share capital structure were continuing. It will have to persuade holders of preference shares to agree to convert all their shares into new ordinary shares. A company spokesman said that it was impossible to say how long the talks would go on. He said: "Obviously the board would like to get it sorted out as quickly as possible."

Fisher hit by cockle devastation

By Sarah Cunningham

ALBERT FISHER, the food processing and distribution group, said that its most recent harvest of cockles had been severely restricted by the devastation of the cockle beds in 1996.

The cockle beds were damaged after the water froze off the north coast of Holland early last year. It will not be clear until April. Cockles usually account for around 10 per cent of Albert Fisher's annual profits.

In a trading statement for the half year to February 28 released yesterday, the company said that the poor cockle harvest had been partially offset by a much improved fresh mussel market. It said the remainder of the seafood division has made good progress.

The European food processing division is performing in line with budget. In the European fresh produce division, which earns the greater part of its profits in the second half of the financial year, the vegetable markets remain difficult, however.

It said some markets have shown improvement since the new year. The shares were unchanged at 43½p.

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CHANGING TIMES

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

SWIFT LEVICK SUPERMAGLOY LIMITED
(In members' voluntary liquidation)
Company number: 1476614
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF SWIFT LEVICK SUPERMAGLOY LIMITED

On 10 February 1997 the Company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Roger Marsh and Ian Clifford Powell of Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2SN were appointed liquidators by the shareholders. The liquidators give notice, pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the creditors of the Company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the Company to the liquidators, at the above address by 31 March 1997, which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidators also give notice that they will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.

The Company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.

10 February 1997
ROGER MARSH
Joint Liquidator

SWIFT LEVICK ENGINEERING LIMITED
(In members' voluntary liquidation)
Company number: 2047832
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF SWIFT LEVICK ENGINEERING LIMITED

On 10 February 1997 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Roger Marsh and Ian Clifford Powell of Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2SN were appointed liquidators by the shareholders. The liquidators give notice, pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the creditors of the Company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the Company to the liquidators, at the above address by 31 March 1997, which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidators also give notice that they will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.

The Company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.

10 February 1997
ROGER MARSH
Joint Liquidator

THOMAS-CONRAD EUROPE LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 2945222
NETWORTH UK LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 2710506
(BOTH IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

On 13 February 1997 the above named companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders. The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to the liquidator, at No1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 2 April 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. All known creditors have been or will be paid in full.

Date 25 February 1997
AV Lomas, Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In the matter of
CIRTH PROPERTIES II PLC
IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

We, Peter John Robertson Souster and Peter James Dickerson of Baker Tilly, 2 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3ST, give notice in accordance with Rule 4.106(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that we were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company on 19 February 1997.

Signed P J R Souster
Joint Liquidator
P J Dickerson
Joint Liquidator
Date 22/2/97

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In the matter of
CIRTH PROPERTIES PLC
IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

We, Peter John Robertson Souster and Peter James Dickerson of Baker Tilly, 2 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3ST, give notice in accordance with Rule 4.106(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that we were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company on 19 February 1997.

Signed P J R Souster &
P J Dickerson
Joint Liquidators
Date 23/2/97

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-680 6878 OR FAX:0171-481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Shares end at best levels of the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	407½	Allied Domecq	440	-1½	8.7	13.3
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	620	...	2.7	18.6
131	63½	Burn Stewart	89		6.2	73.3
1000	615	Glenmorangie A	1000	+15	1.5	27.2
496	411	Grand Met	492	+1½	4.3	14.9
493	424	Guinness	484	+2½	4.1	14.4
380	315	Highland Dist	351	-½	3.0	16.8
803	255½	Matthew Clark	317½	+½	9.4	15.2
141	91½	Merrydown W	107½	-1	6.3	14.5
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1909½	-3½	1.8	...

BANKS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4706¼	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	4534¼	-34¼	2.6	18.5
811	528	Abbey Nat	768	+4½	4.3	13.3
455½	315	Allied Irish	445	-3	4.1	...
403½	285	Aus NZ	387½	-3	4.9	...
7609¾	3843¾	Bank America	7337½	-121¼	...	
373½	227½	Bank Scotland	341	-1½	2.7	12.6
1226	683	Barclays	1127	...	3.5	11.4
631½	419	Bk of Ireland	628½	-3	3.8	14.2
7864¾	4031¼	Citicorp	7490¾	-84¾	...	...
1575	1258¾	Commerzbk	1571¾		2.8	...
1350	805¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	709½	-3½	0.8	...
3412½	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3206¾	+21¾	2.0	...
881½	593¾	Espirito Santo	875	+3¾	3.9	12.3
1507	808¾	Fuji Bank Y	760	-4	0.6	...
1583½	881	HSBC	1563	-2½	3.0	14.8
1544	930	HSBC HK	1520	-4	3.1	14.4
600	385	Irish Perm	600	...	2.7	
534	294½	Lloyds TSB	517	+9	3.2	18.2
819½	565	Nat Aust Bk	780½	-2¾	5.3	10.5
844½	605½	Nat West	759	-15	4.9	11.1
632½	464	Ryl Bk Scot	588½	-11½	4.0	13.8
826½	547	Stand Chart	815½	+22	2.3	14.4
£174¾	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾	...	1.8	...
374¼	264	Westpac	352½	-1½	3.8	11.4

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OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
358	163¾	Brit Biotech	261½	+6		
910	340	Cantab Pharma	900	+27½		
693	441	Celltech	663½	-5		
588	324	Chiroscience	430	-2½		
447	149½	Cortecs	238½	+6		
1051	767	Glaxo Well	1037½	+8½	3.6	18.6
475	194	ML Laboratories	241½			63.2
315½	205	Medeva	315½	+5	1.9	
395	175½	Peptide Thera	390			
97	34½	Proteus Intl	72½			
808	524	Scotia	642½	+2½		
266	179	Shire Pharms	230	-2½		
86	67½	SkyePharma	68½	-2½		
947½	626½	SmithKline	923½	+9	2.1	24.4
532	299½	Therp Anti Inc	386			
707½	457½	Vanguard	675			
333	192	Xenova	325	-8		
1899	1216	Zeneca	1838½	+12	2.2	40.0

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
101	100	Treas 7% 1997	100		6.98	6.08
107	100	Exch 10½% 1997	100		10.49	
107	101	Treas 8¾% 1997	101		8.64	6.08
114	102	Exch 15% 1997	105		14.21	6.14
106	100	Exch 9¾% 1998	102		9.47	6.32
100	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.18	6.30
116	108	Treas 14% 1998-01	108		12.86	6.42
122	113	Treas 15½% 1998	113		13.67	6.46
114	108	Exch 12% 1998	108		11.03	6.49
108	97	Treas 9½% 1999	105		9.04	6.52
116	110	Exch 12¼% 1999	110		11.05	6.59
112	107	Treas 10½% 1999	107		9.73	6.51
99	96	Treas 6% 1999	98		6.07	6.58
110	107	Conv 10¼% 1999	108		9.43	6.66
108	103	Conv 9% 2000	106		8.48	6.69
105	101	Treas 8% 2000	104		7.69	6.73
124	117	Treas 13% 2000	118		10.97	6.77
114	100	Treas 10% 2001	110		9.03	6.83
101	95	Treas 7% 2001	100		6.98	6.84

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
114	108	Treas 9¾% 2002	112		8.67	6.97
105	99	Treas 8% 2002	105		7.61	6.96
117	110	Treas 10% 2003	115		8.87	7.02
121	114	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	116		9.98	6.85
86	78	Fund 3½% 1999-04	86		4.06	5.81
114	107	Conv 9½% 2004	114		8.33	7.06
98	91	Treas 6¾% 2004	98		6.87	7.02
109	101	Treas 8½% 2005	108		7.87	7.11
122	108	Conv 9½% 2005	114		8.30	7.11
131	123	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128		9.72	7.06
109	94	Treas 7¾% 2006	102		7.30	7.13
107	98	Treas 7¾% 2006	103		7.47	7.16
104	97	Treas 8% 2002-06	103		7.72	7.12
125	115	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	127		9.60	7.03
110	101	Treas 8½% 2007	109		7.77	7.17
114	103	Treas 9% 2008	113		7.92	7.22
105	96	Treas 8% 2009	105		7.61	7.27

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
91	81	Treas 6¼% 2010	90		6.90	7.33
115	104	Conv 9% 2011	114		7.86	7.32
116	104	Treas 9% 2012	115		7.82	7.33
85	75	Treas 5½% 2008-12	84		6.49	7.10
107	96	Treas 8% 2013	105		7.55	7.35
104	93	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	103		7.50	7.38
107	95	Treas 8% 2015	106		7.50	7.33
115	102	Treas 8¾% 2017	114		7.88	7.38
108	95	Tr 8% 2021	107		7.45	7.32

UNDATED

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
47	41	War Ln 3½%	46		7.46	
33	28	Treas 2½%	32		7.83	
54	46	Consols 4%	52		7.65	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114	111	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114			1.78
187	176	Treas IL 2½% 2001	186		2.49	3.11
184	171	Treas IL 2½% 2003	183		2.74	3.18
120	112	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	119		2.80	3.20
195	170	Treas IL 2% 2006	194		2.94	3.25
176	161	Treas IL 2½% 2009	175		3.06	3.31
183	165	Treas IL 2½% 2011	181		3.14	3.36
150	137	Treas IL 2½% 2013	149		3.19	3.38
161	145	Treas IL 2½% 2016	159		3.25	3.43
154	138	Treas IL 2½% 2020	153		3.33	3.48
128	115	Treas IL 2½% 2024	127		3.35	3.48
126	113	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	125		3.36	3.40

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	726.90	773.30	- 1.10	2.39
General Inc	606.70	645.50	- 0.90	2.39
UK Growth Acc	503.30	535.50	- 1.10	2.34
UK Growth Inc	325.80	346.60	- 0.70	2.34
Higher Inc Acc	896.00	954.10	- 2.60	3.72
Higher Inc Inc	477.80	508.30	- 1.40	3.72
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	217.80	230.00	- 0.60	5.72
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.35	100.70	- 0.20	5.72
Nth America	373.70	397.60	+ 0.50	
Europe	394.50	419.70	- 0.50	0.24
Brit Estab	99.35	105.70	.	2.45
Brit Fndatn Acc	126.30	134.40	- 0.20	4.31
Brit Fndatn Inc	84.42	89.81	- 0.20	4.31
Global Opps	106.30	113.10		...
Balanced Acc	67.07	71.36	- 0.07	2.36
Balanced Inc	62.63	66.63	- 0.06	2.36
Japan Acc	38.42	40.88	+ 0.22	
Pac Basn Acc	411.20	437.50	+ 1.50	0.79
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	135.60	143.90	- 0.50	6.61
High Inc Equity	196.90	210.60†	- 0.20	4.51
Worldwide Bond	269.10	285.40†	- 0.30	4.69
American Growth	434.60	464.50†	+ 2.70	0.36
Asian Pacific	341.30	365.00	+ 8.90	0.38
Assets & Earnings	324.60	347.20	- 1.90	2.72
Euro Capital Acc	202.50	216.60	- 0.70	0.73
Extra Inc	42.86	45.58†		8.03
General	292.40	311.10†	- 0.40	2.80
Global Opps	75.37	80.18	- 0.13	0.50
Japan	91.46	97.82	+ 0.32	...
Managed Inc	49.33	52.69†	- 0.06	4.27
Multitrust	177.30	189.60	- 0.10	1.27
US Emerging Cos	193.50	205.90	- 0.80	
Ethical	89.54	95.25	- 0.17	1.81
International	141.70	150.70	- 0.10	0.06
Dividend & Growth	72.61	77.24†	- 0.08	4.35
Global Gwth & Inc	74.85	80.05	- 0.05	2.32
Latin America	81.47	86.67	- 0.82	0.45
Capital Reserve	147.80	147.80	.	4.74
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 9500				
H&P UK Growth	97.45	103.60†	- 0.21	2.30
Equity Income	137.00	145.70	- 0.50	4.10
Extra Income	264.60	281.40	- 0.70	6.33
Smaller Cos	115.40	122.70		1.45
International	118.00	125.50	- 0.20	1.34
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2580.00	2681.00	+16.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	65.02	67.48		0.14
Emerging Mkts	80.75	84.10		0.04
European	163.10	169.50†		
Extra Income #	51.89	54.61		5.96
Far East Emg Eco	131.70	138.20		0.45

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	167.29	179.89	+ 0.84	0.74
UK Equity	105.02	112.13	- 0.28	3.19
UK Equity & Bd	61.74	65.44	- 0.15	6.16
UK Smlr Cos	56.33	60.25	- 0.12	1.25
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	823.99	836.45	.	4.09
Fxd Int Sec	161.95	162.59	.	6.80
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	818.27	830.63	.	4.14
Investment Acc	138.20	138.77	.	..
Fixed Int Inc	131.03	131.55	.	6.82
Fixed Int Acc	244.89	245.87	..	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	90.01	94.88	.	5.28
Beck Bio-Tech	47.92	52.00	- 1.25	.
Acorn Ethical Tst	200.60	210.65	.	0.42
City Fin Assets	83.54	87.72	..	1.76
City Fin Intl	91.28	95.86	.	0.13
Frars Hse Cap	327.24	348.13†	.	2.27
Buckley Wrld Gth	143.98	152.62	..	
J Sml Inc/Gth Inc	61.06	64.14	- 0.25	3.24
Show Utilities	65.70	67.32		6.56
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	60.12	63.79	+ 0.08	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	84.52	89.91	- 0.45	..
Dragon Growth	75.00	80.21	+ 0.08	0.24
Equity High Inc	98.86	105.94	- 0.49	3.56
-do- Accum	144.02	154.34	- 0.58	3.56
Extra Income Inc	27.50	28.96	- 0.07	6.80
Extra Income Acc	30.70	32.33	- 0.07	6.80
European Gwth	67.88	72.02	- 0.02	0.41
Evergreen	32.26	34.50	+ 0.10	.
General Equity	115.15	122.17	- 0.39	2.46
Japan Growth	38.50	41.38	+ 0.20	..
Pedigree Gwth	69.19	74.18	- 0.71	2.07
Pcf Sm Cos Inc	41.03	44.12	+ 0.07	1.05
-do- Accum	43.74	47.03	+ 0.07	1.05
Retirement Inc #	30.23	32.19	- 0.09	5.46
Special Sits	51.00	54.84	+ 0.01	2.31
UK & Overseas	63.38	67.26	- 0.15	0.54
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 888 000				
Balanced	74.32	77.41†	- 0.25	3.98
Capital	88.58	93.31†	- 0.36	2.45
High Income	53.74	55.97†	- 0.13	6.45
Top 50	61.48	64.04†	- 0.25	2.39
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0161 888 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	209.41	218.16	- 0.67	4.21
Long Gilt	45.52	47.39	- 0.05	5.89
Monthly Inc Plus	52.90	55.11	- 0.06	8.13

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sister Gwth	208.00	221.90	+ 0.30	0.91
New Japan	81.65	86.17	+ 0.26	.
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	221.50	235.60†	- 0.90	.
Income #	243.15	258.66†	+ 0.28	4.01
UK Growth	94.85	100.90†	- 0.18	1.83
Intl Growth	91.71	97.50†	+ 0.40	0.57
Ecology	111.99	119.13	- 0.18	0.87
European	230.59	245.31†	- 0.85	0.20
Far Eastern	318.40	338.70†	- 0.30	
UK Special Sits	60.21	64.22	+ 0.11	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.58	60.35	- 0.08	.
High Income #	55.24	58.92	- 0.14	4.75

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	108.78	115.72	- 0.15	0.44
Intl Bond	83.43	86.52	+ 0.61	4.71
Intl Equity Growth	88.09	94.60	+ 0.14	0.64
N Amer Growth	153.43	162.95	- 0.07	0.70
Special Sits Growth	30.60	32.55	.	1.95
UK Growth	500.70	532.65	- 0.23	2.38
-do- Accum	691.40	735.53	- 0.32	2.38
NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01820 625987				
Balanced Fd #	1514.90	1537.40	..	2.80
Income #	1072.30	1088.80†	.	4.00

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	104.70	109.20	- 0.30	6.64
Euro Pay Inc	110.60	117.70	- 0.60	2.75
-do- Accum	110.60	117.70	- 0.60	2.75
Gilt Yield	122.70	129.40	- 0.20	6.25
Global Income	243.80	259.40†	+ 0.60	3.07
High Yield	171.70	182.70†	- 1.70	5.10
-do- Accum	573.30	609.30†	- 6.40	5.10
Money Market	98.90	98.90†	+ 0.01	5.41
Smllr Cos Div	66.28	70.43†	- 0.17	3.82
Tomorrows Co Gr Acc	10.330	10.48	+ 0.02	
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	164.10	174.60†	- 0.30	..
Asian Growth	333.60	354.30	+ 2.60	
-do- Accum	392.90	417.30	+ 2.90	
North American	120.30	122.00	- 0.32	
European Special	144.55	153.73	- 0.70	1.08
European	192.80	205.10	- 0.90	0.47
-do- Accum	255.40	271.70	- 1.10	0.47

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-do- Accum	207.00	213.40	- 0.50	2.39
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European	113.10	120.10†	..	0.79
Income #	91.08	95.67†	..	3.69
Nth American	107.60	114.20	..	0.02

■ THEATRE 1

In Stratford the rarely seen *Cymbeline* is given a smart overhaul by the RSC . . .

■ THEATRE 2

. . . while in London, *Faust* is radically but impenetrably revised for our frazzled times

THE TIMES ARTS

■ RADIO

The novels of Armistead Maupin are the starting point for a new travel series about America

■ TOMORROW

Does Tennessee Williams's *Camino Real* justify revival? Read Benedict Nightingale's view

THEATRE: Excellent RSC acting in a fine production at Stratford; plus some philosophical confusion, and an Irish one-hander

Doom, gloom and humanity

ACTORS Touring Company is into doomsday scenarios. For its last production Nick Philippou rediscovered an Odön von Horváth play from 1926 that comically savaged a Europe in disarray after the First World War. Now Mark Ravenhill provides a text where a character argues that humanity itself is at an end. I wish I had been able to follow the argument.

Faust
Lyric Studio, Hammersmith

This is not the *Faust* of Marlowe or Goethe or Thomas Mann. It is closer to Klaus Mann's *Mephisto*, where the tempter and the tempted coexist in one person, but in the Ravenhill version these roles switch between his two characters. One is a Foucault-like philosopher embarking on a sexual spree in California, the other a callow youth at war with his father. We do not learn the names of the protagonists but are told that the father is a computer billionaire named Bill — not a name one would lightly choose.

Since Ravenhill is the author of *Shopping and F***ing*, the likelihood was high that alarming events would occur. Publicity photos suggested that blood would flow, and so it does, though the injury to the professor's eyes causes no lasting inconvenience.

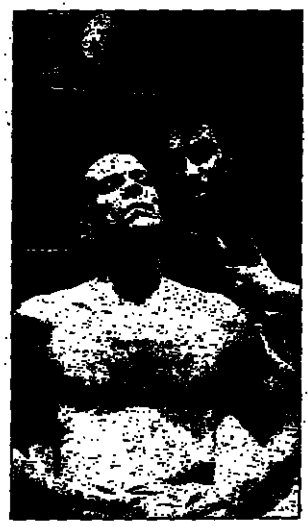
So what happens? On Pippa Nissen's spare and mobile set, philosopher and youth do a deal. The philosopher wants "to live a little", the youth to escape from Dad.

The lean and hungry look of the French-Canadian actor Alain Pelletier gives a good impression of cerebral rigour, and a certain intellectual fatigue comes across in his gesture of tilting his head sideways and supporting its weight on a hand. Zoomorphic shapes are projected onto video screens, and a man's naked body too, bleeding from self-inflicted slashes.

These wounds come in because the youth — a high-twitch performance by Pete Bailie — has trouble with reality unless it comes by way of video or the Internet. Some guy they meet slices his jugular as a way to approach *real* reality. Hereabouts the philosopher becomes Mephisto and the youth goes back to his father.

None of these events satisfactorily allows an exploration of what I take to be the play's prime question: humanity, whither? The stated answer is that we must be cruel, but this smacks of trimming the argument to fit a desired sexual solution. On three occasions when the play could oblige us to face something horrible, Philippou never quite shows it. I was grateful for that.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Tempter tempted: Alain Pelletier and Pete Bailie

A tall tale, beautifully told

There is an unease about the Royal Shakespeare Company in the air, and not just because the troupe will soon clamber into buses and take a worryingly long summer break from the Barbican. Some say its modern work is disappointing — yet Peter Whelan's fascinating contribution to the Shakespeare archives, *The Herbal Bed*, is about to move to the West End. I myself have felt that its classic productions are not what they were — yet here is Adrian Noble's superb revival of *Cymbeline*, with Joanne Pearce, Paul Freeman and Guy Henry firmly answering the suspicion that RSC acting is getting weaker.

Cymbeline
RST, Stratford

Noble has made heavyish cuts to the text, but they left me unbothered. Indeed, I was relieved to find the laborious opening conversation between First Gent and Second Gent reduced to a deft exegesis narrated by an orange-clad soothsayer to a white-clothed cast clustered over a flame. That instantly establishes the right feel. *Cymbeline* is a wonderfully tall tale, absorbing in itself but packed with ingredients from Shakespeare's other late romances: a pure young heroine, evil in high places, desperate separations, glorious reconciliations, a visit from Mount Olympus, forgiveness, joy.

An oriental simplicity rules. Anthony Ward's set is a blue box with silky white flooring that rises to hang like a sail above the stage. Two Little Maids From School teeter about in black slippers. The more elevated members of the royal household are Confucian figures in skullcaps and long black jackets. Even the Romans' red robes owe less to Caesar than to the Mikado. The battle between them and the British comes with staves, huge banners and Edward Petherbridge's Cymbeline aloft on a brass-and-cloth throne. People trip in and out via a walkway running through the stalls.

Why so radical a journey from Britain *circa* AD 10? Is Noble excusing what's exotic in the story of Cymbeline's daughter Imogen, whose adventures include being betrayed by her wicked stepmother, menaced by her husband after the Roman Iachimo pretends he has slept with her, disguising herself as a boy and meeting her long-lost brothers in the Welsh wilds, and, after being wrongly deemed dead, waking up to find herself beside a corpse she thinks is her husband but is actually her stepbrother, Cloten? All I can report is delight in an evening that combines clarity with a sense of wonder.

Petherbridge solves one of the play's problems by bringing an interestingly pained, flummoxed quality to the undeveloped, unattractive title-character. There is certainly no doubting who wears the pantaloons in his court, given the power that Joanna McCallum's towering Queen majestically exudes.

Pearce's Imogen should probably react more strongly to such setbacks as finding that a) her husband wants to kill her, and b) she is snuggling up to what looks like his headless trunk; but she has the essential qualities in abundance. I have never seen her bring more freshness, sweetness and warmth to a part.

The male villains are equally effective. Freeman cannot motivate Iachimo's final repentance — who could? — but everything about him in the early scenes, from his smile to the silvery glint in his eye, radiates arrogance and sly, stealthy destructiveness. And Henry does much to humanise a character usually played as a boorish oaf. His Cloten fastidiously lengthens his name's tell-tale first syllable, and, instead of roaring and blustering, gives the impression of a natural Aguecheek trying to convince himself he is a mix of Romeo and Hotspur or a long, thin prawn indulging in shark-fantasies. Funny stuff, fine production.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Evidence of seduction: Paul Freeman's Iachimo (left) shows off the bracelet to Damian Lewis's Posthumus, watched by David Glover (Philario)

Plot makes a shallow grave

THE hottest action is all over before the start of Colin O'Connor's monologue, *All Those Trammelling Dreams*. Only after the sounds of a scuffle have died down does the play's sole character appear, blood dribbling from his nose and mouth.

Crash landing somewhere between Edgar Allen Poe and Christopher Isherwood, O'Connor's play doubles as the breathless, febrile testimony of a champagne Charlie. An unpleasant figure, all too easy to distrust, he has been cornered by a mob after a sordid encounter and now addresses an audience he imagines to be filled with impatient bystanders, witnesses and vigilantes baying for some explanation of the night's events.

All Those Trammelling Dreams
The Crypt, Dublin

The effete, dinner-suited sucker, played by Michael McElhatton in a daze of fragility and bluster, begins to offer an account of himself, of his habit of frequenting nightclubs alone, of drinking too much wine and of tipping too extravagantly, and of his uncomfortable connections with a mysterious (and significantly absent) couple. Gradually, a fuzzy picture begins to emerge of a dysfunctional relationship, the very shadowiness of which is its only explanation.

McElhatton always has a mammoth task in bringing an often jerky script together. O'Connor's play demands that his actor respond to a pressing crowd of gawkers, something which calls for carefully timing and a clipping pace. On opening night, McElhatton certainly kept the speed high, but his occasionally breathlessly high-adrenalin performance came at the expense of some accuracy.

Even though he has written a play which relies on a hidden secret, O'Connor does not seem to have all the skills required to maintain a convincing subterfuge. His twists are always visible and too often sound hollowly literary.

The central notion of performance as a hybrid of legal testimony and storytelling is not strong or fresh enough to support the weight of even this short evening and the narrative soon shifts into fantasy territory which, while perhaps offering a useful exercise for an author, has limited rewards for his audience.

LUKE CLANCY

NOMINATED FOR 8 BAFTA AWARDS

MADONNA ANTONIO BANDERAS JONATHAN PRYCE
EVITA
AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE NOW

Half bored

RADIO

Travel programmes on radio can never hope to compete with their television equivalents any more than travel brochures would have much of a readership if they lacked pictures. The main example on BBC Radio is **Breakaway** (Radio 4), which is said to be one of the targets in the rifle sights of James Boyle, Radio 4's Controller.

I cannot understand why *Breakaway* persists in trying to visit places. It would be far better to let Jill Dando do the wandering in the sun routine on TV and turn *Breakaway* into a show for travel consumers, leading us through the maze of special offers that aren't. *Breakaway* does some of that, but not enough.

But there is another thing that makes the present *Breakaway* unsatisfactory, and that is radio's excellence at doing travel shows that are not ostensibly travel shows at all.

A fine example began on Radio 4 this week. **Novel America** (Tuesday at 10am, FM only) is a four-parter which visits different parts of America through the medium of novels set in those areas. The idea is not new, but I doubt that it has ever been better executed than in this series.

The presenter is Martin Wainwright, and in the first programme he saw San Francisco through his own eyes and those of the writer Armistead Maupin, creator of the *Tales of the City* stories, which are set in San Francisco.

There were no recommended hotels or ideal vantage points from which to admire the Golden Gate Bridge. Instead there were real people living in real streets doing real jobs offering real experiences of real life. Mainstream travel programmes leave the feeling that the show has been to a place to save us the trouble: this one must have had people reaching for the nearest travel agent.

PETER BARNARD

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Play Fantasy Formula One

Prizes worth £40,000

IN ASSOCIATION WITH Marlboro

Now is your chance to get in pole position for *The Times* and the Marlboro World Championship Team 1997 Formula One season which starts in Melbourne on Sunday March 9. For the chance to win a share of our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One jackpot just choose a team of six racing drivers and six constructors from the four groups listed in the panel, below. Entry phone lines are open from now until noon on Thursday March 6. Your name will go into a pre-season draw for the chance to win a prize of £1,000 or a Sony PlayStation.

You can switch your fantasy team after each grand prix. Full details of the scoring system and the terms and conditions appeared in the 20-page Grand Prix supplement, free with Monday's *Times*.

● You can also play Fantasy Formula One with *The Sunday Times* for the chance to win additional prizes.

THE PRIZES

JACKPOT: The manager with the best team score on our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard after the final race of the season, the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26, will win £25,000. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up.

INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS: The manager of the team which scores the most points in the Australian Grand Prix will win a luxury three-day trip for two to San Marino. The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation and Formula One game worth £250.

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TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

Call our entry hotline on **0891 405 001** (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). Calls last approximately seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone.

Follow the instructions on the entry line. You will be asked to nominate your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply.

You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name, your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number as confirmation of your entry. Please keep a record of this with your team details.

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

DRIVERS GROUP A

01 Damon Hill
02 Michael Schumacher
03 Jacques Villeneuve
04 Eddie Irvine
05 Jean Alesi
06 Gerhard Berger
07 Mika Hakkinen
08 David Coulthard
09 Rubens Barrichello
10 Heinz-Harald Frentzen
11 Johnny Herbert
12 Mika Salo

DRIVERS GROUP B

13 Olivier Panis
14 Jos Verstappen
15 Ukyo Katayama
16 Pedro Diniz
17 Ricardo Rosset
18 Ralf Schumacher
19 Giancarlo Fisichella
20 Shinji Nakano
21 Nicola Larini
22 Jarno Trulli
23 Jan Magnussen
24 Vincenzo Sospiri

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C

25 Williams
26 Ferrari
27 McLaren
28 Benetton
29 Jordan
30 Ligier

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D

31 Arrows
32 Sauber
33 Tyrrell
34 Minardi
35 Stewart
36 Lola

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0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

■ CHOICE 1

The Leap into Dance festival features new work by Richard Alston

VENUE: Tomorrow, The Green, Richmond

■ CHOICE 2

Maxim Vengerov displays his virtuoso violin technique

VENUE: Recital tonight at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

Curtain up on *Widows*, a new play by Ariel Dorfman and Tony Kushner

VENUE: Previewing at the Traverse, Edinburgh

■ CHOICE 4

Josephine Barstow sings Elizabeth I in Britten's opera *Gloriana*

VENUE: Theatre Royal, Nottingham, tomorrow

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

AUGUST SANDER: An exhibition of approximately 200 photographs depicting rural and urban society in Germany both before and after the First World War opens today in the Wolfson Gallery, and runs until June 8.
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055) Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, noon-6pm

LEAP INTO DANCE. Richmond's sixth annual dance festival features the London premiere of *Rumours, Visions* by the **Richard Alston Dance Company**. A powerful triple-bill by this finely honed ensemble includes *Beyond Measure and Lachrymae*.
Richmond, The Green (0181-940 0088) Tomorrow, 7.45pm. 🅂

MAXIM VENGEROV The virtuoso violinist returns to the Barbican after a three-year absence. This evening's recital begins with Mozart's Sonata in B flat, Shchedrin's *Echo Sonata* and Elgar's Violin Sonata. A selection of music by Tchaikovsky completes the programme. With Igor Uryash, piano.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight, 7.30pm. 🅂

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM. Nahid Siddiqui and Company presents the British premiere of *Prism*, a new work which uses classic Kathak dance to explore the effects of water, light and colour on mood, movement and feeling. *Prism* receives its London premiere in the Purcell Room on March 19
MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston Road (0121-440 3838). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. 🅂

CARDIFF: Conductor Grant Llewellyn, the **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** and the BBC National Chorus of Wales celebrate St David's Day with a performance of Haydn's *The Creation*. With Rebecca Evans, soprano, John Mark Ainsley, tenor, and Neal Davies, baritone. Sung in German.
St David's Hall, The Hayes (01222 878444). Tomorrow, 7.30pm 🅂

EDINBURGH: Traverse Theatre Company presents the European premiere of Ariel Dorfman's play, **Widows**, written in collaboration with Tony Kushner. *Widows* tells of the unspoken anguish and anger experienced by the mothers, wives and daughters whose men have disappeared from a village torn apart by civil war. Directed by Ian Brown.
Traverse, Cambridge Street (0131-228 1404). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Then **Cambridge**, Arts (01223 503333), March 5-8; **Oxford**, Playhouse (01865 798600), March 11-15; **Newcastle**, Playhouse (0191-230 5151), March 18-22), **Edinburgh**, Traverse, March 25-Apr 6.

NOTTINGHAM: *Gloriana*, Benjamin Britten's atmospheric evocation of the Elizabethan age, is staged by **Opera North** in a production directed by Phyllida Lloyd. Josephine Barstow sings the role of Queen Elizabeth I, with Clive Bayley as Sir Walter Raleigh and Thomas Randle as the Earl of Essex. The conductor is James Holmes.
Theatre Royal, Theatre Square (0115-948 2626). Tomorrow, 7.15pm; next in **Manchester**, Palace (0161-242 2503), March 7.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Lucie Rie and Hans Coper Potters in Parallel (0171-638 4141) . . . **Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design:** Direction '97 — The College Exhibition (0171-514 7000) . . **Mall:** A Celebration of Life: David Wynne — 50 Years of Sculpture (0171-930 6844) . . . **Portal:** Portal Painters Spring Exhibition (0171-493 0706) . . . **Portland:** Nina Murdoch (0171-321 0422) . . . **Royal Academy:** Braque: The Late Works (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate:** Lovis Corinth (0171-887 8000) **Theo Waddington Fine Art:** Nicholas Harding: Recent Paintings (0171-494 1584) . . **Whitechapel:** Tony Cragg (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

◩ **AS YOU LIKE IT:** Steven Pimlott's superbly cast production.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm; mat Sat, 2pm. In rep 🅂

□ **BIRDY.** *Northern Exposure*'s Rob Morrow joins Kevin Knight's cast in Naomi Wallace's fascinating version of the William Wharton novel: a psychologically damaged GI (Matthew Wait) believes he is a bird. Or does he?
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Now previewing, 8pm. Opens March 5, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm

■ **COCKROACH, WHO?** Jess Walters's play set on a south London estate. Convincing dialogue, thin on plot.
Royal Court Theatre Upstairs (Stage), Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) Final performances tonight and tomorrow, 8.45pm; mat Sat, 4pm.

□ **INHERITORS:** Francis Matthews, son Damien, and Lise Stevenson head a fine cast for Susan Glaspel's 1920s drama exploring the decline of American Frontier idealism. A play once described as worthy to rank alongside *The Master Builder*.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs (March 6, 13), 2.30pm, Sat 4pm. Until April 5

■ **IVANOV:** Ralph Fiennes heads a splendid cast that includes Harriet Walter and Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm Until April 5

□ **LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR:** Neil Simon's funny account of working among a team of scriptwriters for comedian Sid Caesar back in the 1950s. Gene Wilder plays Sid.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Until March 1.

■ **LIGHT SHINING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE:** The National's mobile production by Mark Wing-Davey of Caryl Churchill's drama of apocalyptic revolution: 17th-century Diggers routed by the property-owning Cromwell.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight and tomorrow, Mon and Tue, 7.30pm; mats Sat and Tue, 2.30pm. Until March 4.

◩ ***LUV***: Revival of Murray Schisgal's long-running 1960s romantic comedy: love troubles, life-is-awful troubles but a happy ending. Neil Marcus directs.
Jermyn Street, 16b Jermyn Street, SW1 (0171-287 2875). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, Sat, 4pm. Until March 15.

◩ **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE:** Subtitled "The Songs of Leiber and Stoller". Hit Broadway compilation show celebrating a successful songwriting team, responsible for *Hound Dog, Jailhouse Rock and Spanish Harlem*.
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

◩ **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?:** Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Almeida production of Albee's searing play.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat Sat, 2.15pm. Until March 22.

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ◩ **Buddy:** Strand (0171-930 8800) . . . □ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged):** Criterion (0171-369 1737) . . . ◩ **An Inspector Calls:** Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . . □ **Jesus Christ Superstar:** Lyceum (0171-656 1807) . . . ■ **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) □ **Miss Saigon:** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . □ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BOUND** (18): Flashy thriller about two sultry lesbians and a pile of Mob money, with Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon. Directed by the Wachowski brothers
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** (0181-315 4215) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **THE CRUCIBLE** (12): Weighty version of Arthur Miller's play about 17th-century witchcraft, with Winona Ryder, Daniel Day-Lewis and, best of all, Paul Scofield. Director, Nicholas Hytner.
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **MARS ATTACKS!** (12). Tim Burton's aggressively silly and star-studded spoof of the alien invasion movie, with Jack Nicholson and Glenn Close
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** 🅂 (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY** (12): Jane Campion's icily elegant adaptation of Henry James, with Nicole Kidman as the independent American sucked into a marriage in Europe.
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** 🅂 (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** 🅂 (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

CURRENT

◆ **FIERCE CREATURES** (PG): Broad comedy in an English zoo, from John Cleese and *A Fish Called Wanda* team. With Kevin Kline, Jamie Lee Curtis Director, Robert Young
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Empire** (0990-888 990) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031)

◆ **MICHAEL** (PG): Ragged, indulgent romantic fable saved by John Travolta's starring role as an angel. With William Hurt and Andie MacDowell.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **THE PHANTOM** (12): Lightly likeable comic-strip thrills, with Billy Zane as the masked righter of wrongs.
Plaza (0990-888 990) **Virgin Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031)

RIDICULE (15): Patrice Leconte's witty and diverting costume piece set in Louis XVI's court, with Fanny Ardant.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **SHE'S THE ONE** (15): Amiable family comedy from Edward Burns, director of *The Brothers McMullen*. With Cameron Diaz and John Mahoney
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** 🅂 (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031)

MUSIC: Women political but incorrect; virtuoso pianism; and perfumed Debussy

Self-destruct programme

Passages
Queen Elizabeth Hall

One easy way to turn a performance into a "happening" is to have a pretentious-looking programme, and the glossy cardboard creation supplied for the premiere of *Passages* stood an unwieldy 2ft high. Alas, it was nearly the most striking thing about this event in which something should really have "happened", given that no fewer than six composers and four poets were involved.

Commissioned and produced by the Women's Playhouse Trust, *Passages* is described as a song cycle, but it sounds more like cabaret and was presented as theatre. It was an uncomfortable reminder that the history of musical theatre is littered with the corpses of well-intentioned works. No one can doubt the sincerity of all those involved; many people recognise the horrors of war, racism, dispossession and displacement with which *Passages* deals. But those who conceived it forgot that drama can seldom stand next to the daily reality as projected on television. And, with its all-female creators and performers drawn deliberately from different cultural backgrounds, there was a stifling excess of PC about the project.

Several of the 20 numbers were smart, some were well performed, but Jules Wright's blank staging obscured many of these virtues. The singers occupied a giant mattress on which at one point they planted flowers; but most of the time they sat, stood or postured, caught in their various predicaments. All the music could have been given as cabaret or in concert — and without amplification. Indeed, few of the singers needed it, and its only effect was to deaden the words of the specially written poems. Balance between the voices and the Endymion Ensemble, conducted by an energetic Wasfi Kani, could have been better.

Two composers contributed just one number each: Priti Paintal's starkly effective *In my Country* was sung by the word-responsive mezzo Hyacinth Nicholls, and Roxanna Panufnik's *My Dark-eyed Baby* had an easy flow. In contrast, there was too much aimless music from Ruth Byrchmore, although at least in her *Hospital Song* (to effective words by Jackie Kay) the monotony was apt.

Katie Cambell's lyrics, filled with good images, inspired some of the best pieces. Jane Gardner's setting of her *Lullaby* was a highlight, and its sub-Gershwin lines were sung hauntingly by the soprano Lynne Davies. Jenny Miller, Tinuke Olafimihan and Annemarie Sand made good vocal contributions wherever possible.

JOHN ALLISON

Meaningful or meaningless? The glossy publicity face of *Passages*

Beauty without soul

Evgeny Kissin
Festival Hall

AUDIENCES can be strangely revealing creatures. The minute Evgeny Kissin's latest piano recital was over, the Festival Hall marketplace was vibrant: books were being browsed, CDs listened to and acquired, tills were stuttering out countless receipts. Was this the behaviour of an audience deeply moved, satisfyingly nourished by the music they had just heard? Or was it the reaction to an evening of highly charged and often thrilling entertainment?

At 26, Kissin is becoming reliable. He will match extraordinary feats of strength and stamina with exquisitely turned reflective miniatures, and he will balance a pearly, translucent right-hand song with a left hand of resonant, sculpted clarity and then meld one into another in a fluid play of shifting timbres.

Chopin's Ballade No 4 was an inspired meditation on the metamorphosis of song through variation and rondo. But the first three Ballades lacked an individuating sound world: a limited repertoire of performance gesture was applied to three quite different musical characters.

At this stage in his career, Kissin offers a model of beauty rather than a journey of exploration. Behind the remarkable skills of body and mind, there is a certain detachment. The sheer physical achievement of his Schumann *Kreisleriana* was formidable: octave passages supple as wet clay, rhythmic shapes simply crackling under the fingers, long lines of song. Yet these Hoffmann-inspired miniatures are subtitled *Phantasien* and, as in the *Fantasiestuck* he played as an encore, they remained at the level of, albeit exalted, reality.

For the time being, Kissin seems stuck, both in his responses and in his apparently undeveloping repertoire. Had the audience who rose in a standing ovation after Kissin's encore of Liszt's *La Campanella* ever heard Cherkassky play this work? A sense of reflection, of the improvisatory, in short some sense of the *transcendente* beyond the *exécution*, should surely be peeping through Kissin's precocious virtuosity at this stage.

HILARY FINCH

Divine decadence

LSO/Tilson Thomas
Barbican

THE second programme of Michael Tilson Thomas's *Debussy — Painter of Dreams* series offered another thoughtful juxtaposition: the choreographic poem *Jeux* — a masterpiece of subtle evocation — and *Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien*, an altogether more self-indulgent exercise.

The mystery play by Gabriele d'Annunzio, for which the latter score supplies incidental music, is a shamelessly rapturous meditation on the story of the handsome Roman officer killed by arrows fired by his own men because of his Christian sympathies. Debussy's five-hour epic is generally reduced to some more practicable form, and this performance was of Tilson Thomas's own version, with linking narration occasionally superimposed on the music.

Narrative line is not the point here: d'Annunzio's highly erotic, ecstatic, mystical text revels in sweet suffering. Preposterous stuff? To our ears, possibly, but it can be clearly identified as a product of the decadent tradition, and Debussy evidently took it seriously. So too does Tilson Thomas, and that conviction carried the day.

Sweeping us through each of the five "mansions" that make up the work, he was able to dwell longingly enough where appropriate without losing his way in the heavily perfumed mists. His narrator, Leslie Caron, who has made something of a speciality of the role, was, to my ears, over-amplified, but delivered the text with her customary relish and panache. The Argentine soprano Paula Almerares, making her debut in this country, floated a beautifully sensuous, consonant-free line. Jacqueline Miura and Anna Larsson took the smaller vocal parts well enough. The London Symphony Chorus (director Stephen Westrop) made soulful contributions.

As for *Jeux*, the eroticism may be less overt, but it is still a vital element both in the scenario (a chance meeting on a tennis court) and in the score itself. Tilson Thomas's reading was not without its erotic charge, although its strength lay in its unfolding of Debussy's masterly textures — a miracle of self-renewing thematic organisation.

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■ POP 1

U2 try so hard to be trendy on their new album, but *Pop* lacks authentic snap and crackle

■ POP 2

. . . and James's attempt to keep up with the pace is more mishmash than *Whiplash*

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 3

. . . but Suzanne Vega gives her eclectic artistry a twirl to good effect on *Nine Objects of Desire*

■ POP 4

. . . and, in concert, Steve Earle captivated his fans with a vintage display of bleak lyricism

POP ALBUMS: The band that dictated trends for so long now follows them, says **David Sinclair**

U2 in peril of losing the edge

U2 — (from left) Bono, Adam Clayton, the Edge and Larry Mullen — have not lost the plot on their album, *Pop*, so much as surrendered the initiative

U2
Pop
(Island 524 3340 £13.99)

THESE are trying times for supergroups. If R.E.M. can fail to hit their sales targets with an album as good as *New Adventures in Hi-Fi*, then anyone is vulnerable to the restless mood of record buyers. In the past, U2 have been uncannily adept at judging how and when to ring the changes, and *Pop* confirms them as the consummate rock strategists. But although it is a resourceful, intelligent and at times rewarding record, *Pop* is not a great U2 album.

It starts with the wonderful *Discothèque*, a flurry of neat, jokey words, ingeniously double-tracked in different octaves. It suggests a bold, hip, dance-rock direction, an impression confirmed by the bustling techno rhythm and industrial sound effects of *Mofo*, in which Bono delivers a lyric of mortal intensity in a croaky moan that gradually rises to a tortured falsetto.

However, the promise of these two tracks fails to materialise as the album then drifts into more traditional territory with the melancholy evangelism of *If God Will Send His Angels* and *Staring at the Sun*. With the exception of the lovely, rootsy *The Playboy Mansion*, tunes are generally in short supply, a deficiency which the various production tricks do not altogether remedy.

The cumulative effect of so much religious imagery eventually becomes tiresome, and a bunching up of slow and/or unstructured numbers causes the album to tail off towards the end. It is not that U2 have lost the plot, so much as surrendered the initiative. Whereas *Zooropa* and *Achtung Baby* were delightful new chapters in the story of pop, *Pop* sounds as if the band have been listening to the Prodigy and Tricky without quite working out where to go with these dynamic new sounds.

JAMES
Whiplash
(Fontana 534 354 £13.99)

HAVING retreated from the wilfully experimental approach of their previous album, *Wah Wah*, James display signs of Simple Minds syndrome on the more conventional half of *Whiplash*. There is nothing wrong, per se, with songs such as *Lost a Friend*, *Homeboy* or *She's a Star*, with their sturdy guitar-driven structures and gliding, arena-pop choruses. But they do betray a certain hardening of the creative arteries.

As if to counter such accusations, the group adopts a self-consciously radical approach on several other songs. But, apart from the country-tinged shuffle of *Waltzing Along*, these are not very good. *Greenpeace* is a PC polemic about man's malevolent impact on the environment; *Go to the Bank* offers a strange, electro-pop vision of consumerist hell, and *Watering Hole* wanders unsteadily down the hypnotic, trip hop avenue. The end result is more mishmash than whiplash.

SUZANNE VEGA
Nine Objects of Desire
(A&M 540 583 £13.49)

SUZANNE VEGA is one of those people who looks different in every photograph, and there is a similarly elusive quality to her music. Her folk roots remain, most obviously in her wordplay, but songs such as *Caramel* and *Thin Man* now have delicious jazz and Latin influences. Add the dreamy quality of Mitchell Froom's production to the mix and you have an album of sensitive, mercurial grace.

There is often a bleak cast to Vega's lyrics, as on *Casual Match*: "A casual match in a very dry field/Fire and ash is the season's yield". But the choruses of *Headshots* and *No Cheap Thrill* have the kind of instant uplift that would make even a pure pop songwriter happy.

REPUBLICA
Republica
(Deconstruction/BMG 74321 410522 £11.99)

AS A band composed of refugees from N-Joi (singer Saffron), Flowered Up (keyboard player Tim Dorney) and Bow Wow Wow (drummer Dave Barbarossa), Republica would have been labelled a supergroup in an earlier era. Instead, they have gone for the Bush-patented "big in America but still to make it at home" tag, thanks to the modest overseas success of their single *Ready to Go* and this debut album.

Operating on the cusp of dance and what the Americans call modern rock, their sound could not be more of the moment, even if Saffron's pouty, shouty vocals sound more Shampoo than Garbage. Still, there are many banging tracks that will not have too much trouble competing for attention in the clamorous world of young people's pop.

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Steve Earle
Mean Fiddler, NW10

They call him the hardcore troubadour, and no one could ever accuse him of not living the life he creates in song. Faithless women and feckless drifters, reckless spirits and drink and drugs that don't ease the pain — welcome to the world of Steve Earle.

He comes from Texas but moved to Nashville, he's been to prison, he's had lengthy bouts of heroin and crack addiction and has been divorced five times — remarkably similar, in fact, to one of the restless characters who populate his songs.

Today he has cleaned up, and he looked robustly healthy as he captivated the first of three sell-out audiences at the Mean Fiddler with a three-hour acoustic set. This is the best setting in which to see him. With his band Earle's songs tend to coagulate into a long, rocking display of rebel country and Southern hell-raising. On his own he displays a more complicated side.

He is a fine guitarist, adept at the finger-picking styles of the American folk and blues traditions, and he plays harmonica in the gloriously unstructured fashion of the young Bob Dylan. New songs such as *Come Back Woody Guthrie* display a sensitivity for radical American history, namechecking Joe Hill and Emma Goldman. There are also references to Martin Luther King and Jack Kerouac, and he talks animatedly about his longstanding involvement in Native American rights programmes.

There is also a chilling rendition of *Ellis Unit One*, which he wrote for the soundtrack of the Oscar-winning *Dead Man Walking* (Earle is a committed campaigner against capital punishment).

His is a bleak world of people trapped in an American Dream gone to seed. Yet there is humour in his cracked voice, too, on songs such as *Hometown Blues* and *The Devil's Right Hand*. His most famous rebel rocker, *Copperhead Road*, is transformed as a simple mandolin stomp, and he ends with *I Ain't Ever Satisfied*, a song that perhaps sums up not only his life in general but also a career that has delivered much, but somehow always promised more.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

● ***Caitlin Moran is away. Her column returns next week***

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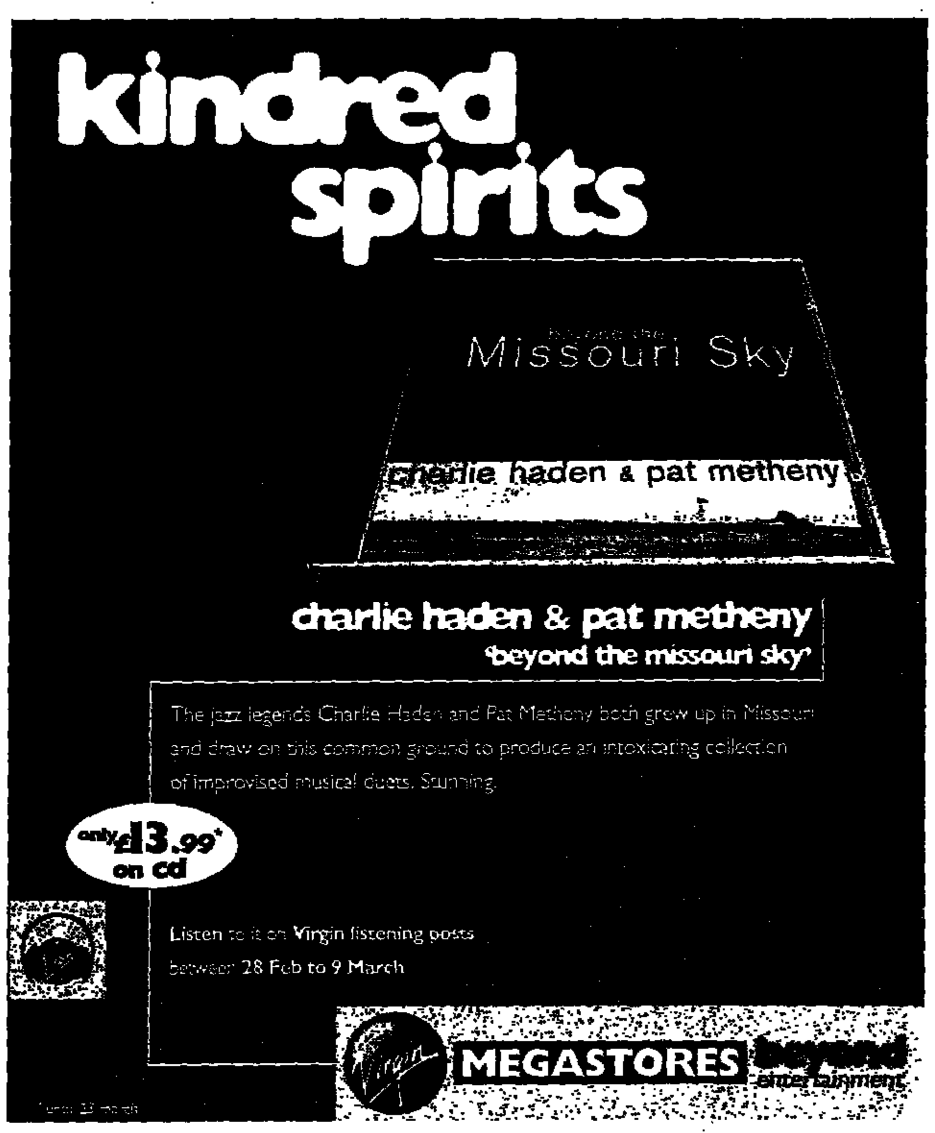
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TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(6)	Attack of the Grey Lantern	Mansun (Parlophone)
2	(2)	Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin)
3	(4)	The Smurfs Hits '97 – Vol 1	Smurfs (EMI TV)
4	(7)	Tragic Kingdom	No Doubt (Interscope)
5	(9)	Ocean Drive	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
6	(1)	Blur	Blur (Food)
7	(3)	White on Blonde	Texas (Mercury)
8	(5)	Evita	Original Soundtrack (Warner Bros)
9	(8)	Blue is the Colour	Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
10	(23)	Everything Must Go	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)

Copyright CIN ● *Figure in brackets denotes last week's position*

Material wealth

JAZZ ALBUMS

BOBBY WELLINS
The Satin Album
(Jazzizit JITCD 9607)

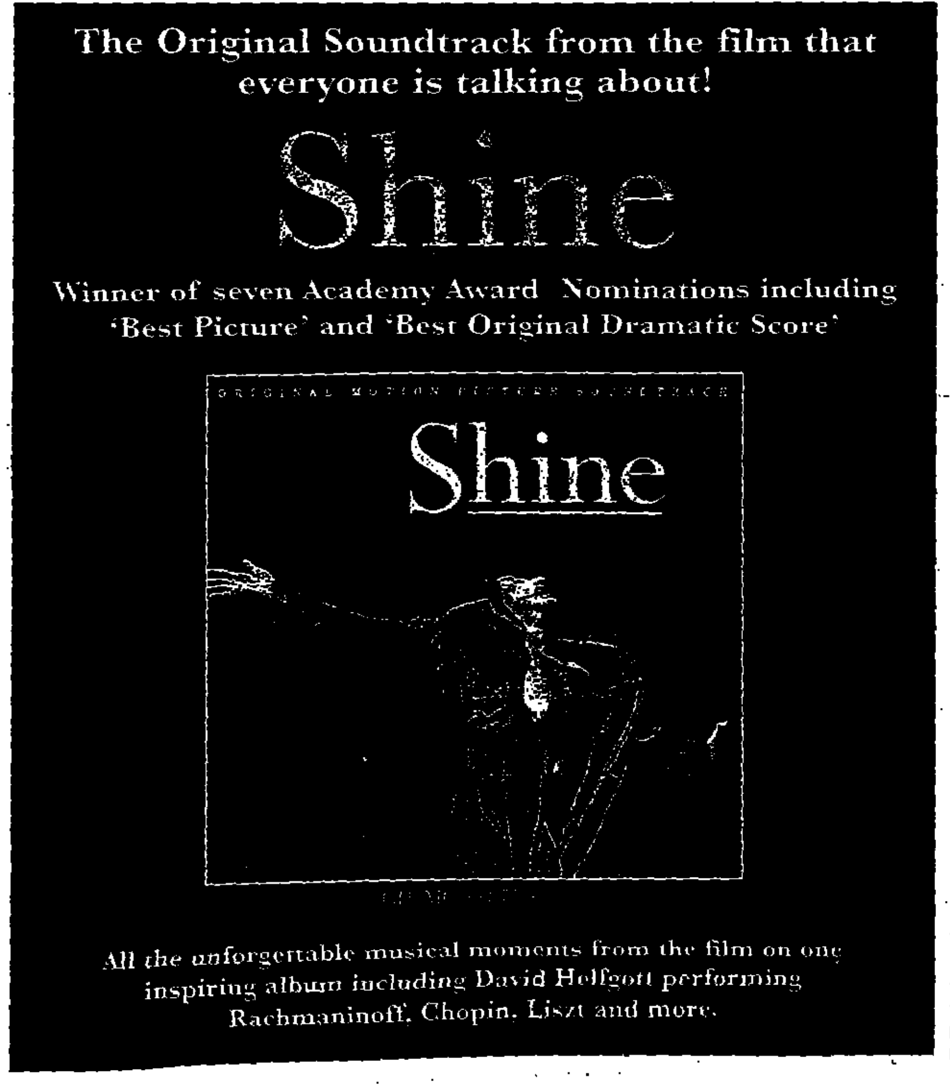
THE appropriateness of Scottish tenor saxophonist Bobby Wellins's slightly world-weary, vulnerable but cultured sound to ballad material is so perfect that the only surprise about this recording devoted entirely to the songs on Billie Holiday's last great album, *Lady in Satin*, is that it hadn't been thought of until now.

Wellins effortlessly imbues all he plays with such plaintive tenderness that the emotional impact of the album is almost as great as that of its template. His rhythm section — pianist Colin Purbrook, bassist Dave Green and drummer Clark Tracey — play with exemplary restraint, but nevertheless manage to contribute a number of telling solos. Overall, a masterful display of controlled sensitivity from one of the most original saxophone voices in European jazz.

STANLEY TURRENTINE
Easy Walker
(Blue Note
CDP 7243 8 29908 2 6)

RECORDED at three 1960s sessions and featuring McCoy Tyner, Mickey Roker and Billy Cobham among others, this compilation underlines just how great is the loss of Turrentine to jazz proper, immersed as he has been for the past decade in pop-jazz and fusion. On these sessions the tenorman's big, swinging, bluesy sound — even when applied to contemporary pop vehicles such as Burt Bacharach's *What the World Needs Now is Love* — is rendered all the more effective by being buoyed up by airy rhythm-section work, complemented by Tyner's sparkling solos.

CHRIS PARKER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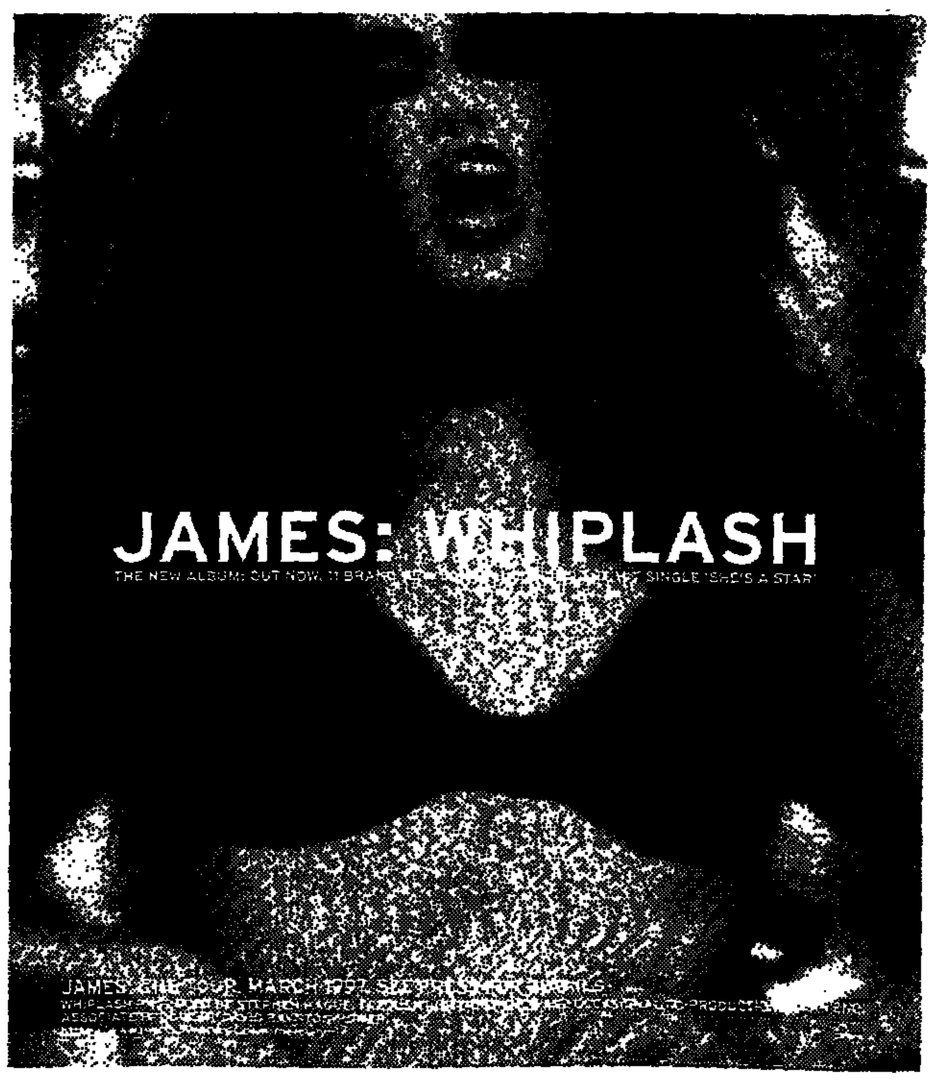
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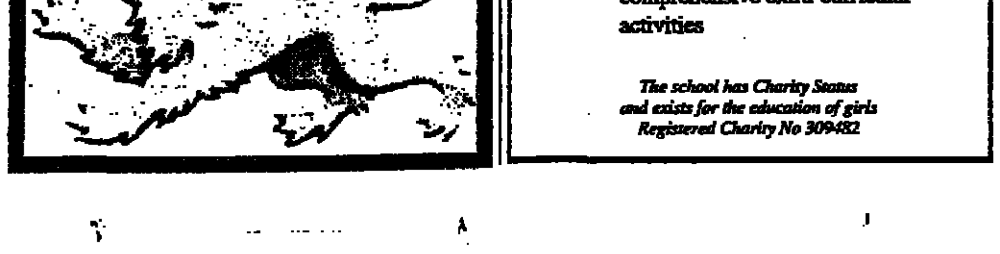

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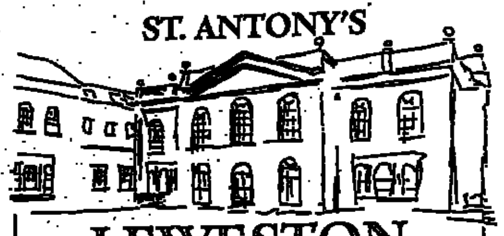

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Academy of heads

Anne Lee questions the approach of an ambitious attempt to give lessons in the art of being a head teacher

In the age of clones there is, as yet, no perfect prototype head teacher. The Chief Inspector of Schools estimates that 3,000 heads are performing inadequately, and those currently in post show no strong desire to stay there. The number of vacancies for senior school heads has increased by 93 per cent.

This week, in an effort to improve educational standards and the professionalism of the head teacher, the Teacher Training Agency (TTA) launched the pilot of its National Professional Headteacher Qualification. But will this much-needed qualification do the trick?

Heads say that their most frequent difficulties lie in dealing with staff, resolving arguments, motivating and criticising with tact, dealing with staffroom politics and relationships with governors. They have also said that they are concerned about how to present the school positively to parents and how to deal with the media. Many chief executives will also say that their greatest challenge lies in dealing with people. But the transition from teacher to head is a quantum leap greater than the transition from, say, finance director to managing director, and the management training needs can be enormous.

Heads have to learn to think like chief executives while retaining the inspiration and humanity that made them great teachers in the first place. This means learning the language of organisation theorists. While many heads grope towards developing the right plans, framing them in the paradigm of organisational development will make their task much easier.

The head who understands how management structures evolve, and the management styles needed, will be more comfortable and assured than one who feels that he or she is constantly trying to paddle upstream.

In practice, the head's day is a procession of decisions that rapidly need to be placed in order of importance and urgency. Each decision needs to be made against the knowledge of the options available. The head teachers' qualification will have succeeded only if he learns to make the right choices. This means giving plenty of time to learn from mistakes made in the privacy of the "Heads' University" rather than allowing experimentation on hapless staff, students or parents.

The mixture of teaching methods which the TTA envisages — lectures, case studies, computer simulations and assignments and presentations — suggests an approach typical of an MBA programme. A masters programme is the quality level to which the programme must aspire. Highly qualified teachers would find anything less an insult. However, only the first module on strategic leadership and accountability is compulsory. This can be completed in 180 hours (including homework). In only 60 hours, the programme will cover differing leadership styles, the many different organisation patterns and theories, and the monitoring methods available. Presumably, the compulsory module must also include sections on relevant legislation, including employment law, the Children Act and health and safety.

JOHN GILES

A challenge: Peter Clark, acting head of the troubled Ridings School

As the devolution of power to schools continues, the compulsory course will need to include work on accountancy skills and computer modelling. Then the head of a large school will be able to plan ahead and monitor progress both financially and academically.

The range of issues that heads have to deal with is wider than for any other type of chief executive. They must be able to think and plan strategically, but they must also know how to harness parents' positive energy, to have productive relationships with the police, the local community and to deal with a governing body that may have diverse and sometimes idiosyncratic interests. The head must be a major link with the outside world. A head who is clever and quick to spot opportunities in business or the community can enrich the lives of pupils in the school, and can increase their aspirations.

Heads will also be working in a world in which many have been on courses to learn negotiating skills and project management — not topics that many in education have previously encountered.

From the broad issues to the individual — inspiring a recalcitrant teenager to see a future, an angry parent to understand the need for discipline — no other role has so many stakeholders.

Heads who in the past have satisfactorily completed an MBA type of programme have either done it full-time or at the expense of health, friends and family. If we want most or all of our heads to undertake a meaningful learning experience, time off work will have to be made available.

We need to ensure that never again does Ofsted have grounds to castigate so many heads. A thorough evaluation of this pilot, and a comparison with the training programmes which other chief executives undergo, will be essential. Management education does not come cheaply or quickly. Only if pitched at the right level will it become the national jewel we need.

● *The author is governor of Queenswood School, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, a former head and businesswoman.*

Viv Wakeham on why a school took the Government to court

IT'S ALL DOWN IN HERE—GET A LOW MARK AND THEY'LL GIVE YOU A LONG HOLIDAY!
SCHOOL LEAGUE TABLES
Smith

When league tables tell lies

The governing body of West Horndon County Primary School could hardly be described as a radical group. All the major parties are represented on it and the governors are mostly professional people, some retired. Yet last month we went to the High Court to challenge the Government over the format of the primary school league tables to be published in March.

We felt strongly about this issue because the tables will be so unfair to our school, a small village school in rural Essex, of which I am head teacher. Of the local children who took the standard assessment tests last May, 50 per cent achieved the "expected" Level 4 or above in English. Yet the league tables will show that only 35 per cent achieved this standard.

The reasons for this are entirely beyond the school's control. First, of the 120 children in the school, 20 are placed by the local education authority in a special unit for speech and language disorders. All these children have statements of special educational needs, which mean that their difficulties place them in the bottom 2 per cent of the population. None of them lives in the area served by the school, some coming from as far away as Chelmsford (15 miles) and Maldon (25 miles). Yet their results will be included in those for the whole school and will inevitably lower the percentage achieving Level 4.

Secondly, the 11-year-olds of West Horndon were unlucky last May. Four of them missed some or all of the tests. One was hit on the head by a golf club while playing in the park. He was lucky not to lose the sight of the eye. He actually returned to school for the final tests, still in great pain, but by then he had missed one paper in each subject. Another child suffered a severe allergic reaction just before the tests and was taken to hospital. In a school the size of ours, four children represent 24 per cent of the eligible pupils, and those absent from the tests are deemed to have failed.

We went to court to argue that the percentage of children who actually took the tests should appear in the tables and those in special units should be excluded. With astonishing contempt for the professionalism of headteachers, the Department for Education and Employment argued in court that to publish the percentage of actual pupils, rather than those who were eligible, would encourage schools to "authorise absences for holidays" for low-attaining pupils.

The department also argued that there was no difference between children with special educational needs in their local school and those in special units.

The judge, Mr Justice Harrison, accepted the points we made, saying: "One can understand the concern which has been expressed by the school ... I fully understand why they feel as they do." He added that the tables will "make the results look poorer than they in fact are ... that is a matter of concern."

But the law gives the Secretary of State very wide powers to "publish information in such a form and manner as she considers appropriate". The judge concluded that the proposed format was not actually perverse, which was the only basis for a legal challenge.

Though the application was turned down, we are pleased to have been able to raise doubts about the validity of the league tables. Funding for schools is based largely on the number of pupils on roll. Even one or two parents choosing an alternative school for their child on the basis of this misleading information could affect the viability of small schools in particular.

Schools are already increasingly reluctant to admit children with special educational needs because they are expensive to educate and have a potentially damaging effect on league table position. Including the results of children in special units will deter most schools from agreeing to have one.

In court, the department repeatedly made the point that the tables are only one source of information about a school. All schools now publish a prospectus with much fuller information, and encourage parents to visit before making a decision.

We hope that parents will consider such things as the range of the curriculum, the level of care for children, how happy they are in school and the extracurricular activities on offer, rather than limited statistics in league tables.

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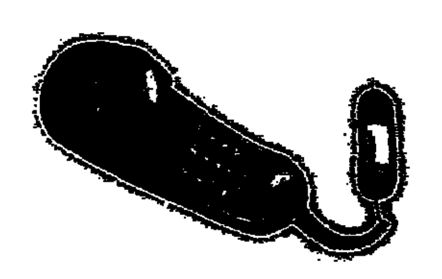

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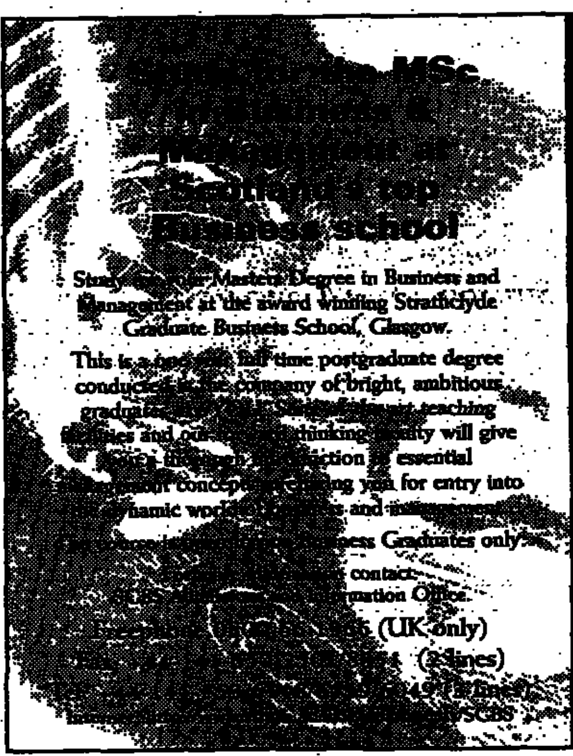

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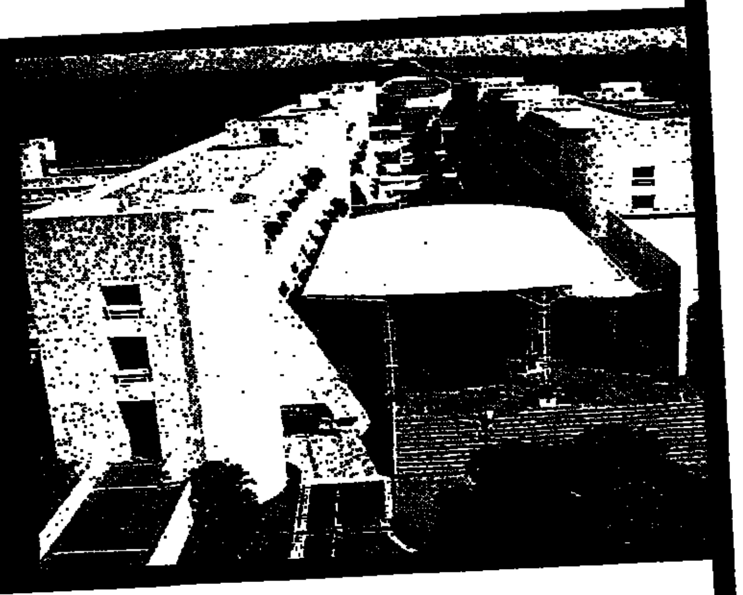

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- *Structural Steel/Concrete And Connections*
- *Construction Management And Information Technology In Construction*
- *Structural Dynamics and Wind Engineering*
- *Transport Planning, Management and Control*
- *Pavement Materials and Technology*

The School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering has an academic staff of about 200 supported by 150 technical staff. There are currently 230 research students.

- *Power System Control and Operations*
- *IC Design and CAD Tools*
- *Information Systems Engineering*
- *Multimedia Systems and Networks*
- *Control Theory and Applications*
- *Computer Vision and Machine Intelligence*
- *Modulation, Coding and Signal Processing*
- *Satellite Communications*
- *Diamond and Thin Films*
- *III-V Semiconductor Materials and Devices*
- *Photonics*

The School of Mechanical and Production Engineering has a staff of 134 supported by 104 technical staff working with 177 research students.

- *Advanced Materials and Processing*
- *Biomedical Engineering*
- *Electronics Packaging*
- *Indoor Air Quality and Pollution Control*
- *Intelligent Machines and Micromachines*
- *Intelligent Manufacturing Systems*
- *Materials Modelling*
- *Precision Machining and Rapid Prototyping*
- *Product Design and Intelligent Modelling*
- *Robotics and Vision Systems*
- *Smart Materials and Structures*

The School of Accountancy and Business has an academic staff of about 250.

- *Actuarial Science and Insurance*
- *Applied Economics*
- *Auditing and Taxation*
- *Banking and Finance*
- *Business Law*
- *Financial and Management Accounting*
- *Human Resource and Quality Management*
- *Marketing and Tourism Management*
- *Strategy and Information Systems*

The School of Applied Science has an academic staff of 77, with technical support staff of 49. It comprises two Departments with a total of 78 research students.

Computer Engineering

- *Computer Architecture*
- *Computer Communications*
- *Intelligent Systems*
- *Real-Time Systems*
- *Object Oriented and Multimedia Database Systems*
- *Image Processing*
- *Computer Graphics and Visualization*
- *Parallel Processing*

Materials Engineering

- *Polymers and Composites*
- *Ceramics*
- *Thin and Thick Films*
- *Electronic Materials and Processing*
- *Fracture Mechanics*
- *Rheology*
- *Corrosion*
- *Surface Engineering*
- *Non-Destructive Testing*

The School of Communication Studies has a staff of 29. It is embarking on research in the following areas:

- *Media Effects*
- *Public Opinion and Persuasion*
- *International and Intercultural Communication*
- *Organizational Communication*
- *Impact of Information Technology & Society*

The research activities take place in modern, extremely well equipped laboratories. The university is equipped with modern information technology systems to support the research and to encourage academic and personal communications via an extensive network. The library which holds over 450,000 volumes provides extensive on-line database search facilities.

The University invites applications for Research Scholarships by graduates (and those graduating this academic year) who have obtained a good honours degree. The Scholarship is normally available for two years for a Master's degree candidate and three years for doctoral students.

Application forms can be obtained by email: gleong@ntu.edu.sg or by fax: 00 65 791 1604 or by writing to The Registrar, Nanyang Technological University, Admin Annex, Level 1, Nanyang Avenue, Singapore 639798.

For more information about our University and the exciting research opportunities, visit our web site at http://www.ntu.ac.sg/

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The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants' December 1996 examination

The following were successful finalists in the the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants' December 1996 examination

Abbott G M, Abdul Aziz Bin Abdul S, Abdulali Yahya Tajbhai, Abraham G H, Abrokwa S K, Abu A, Adams D, Adams K J, Adams M, Adams S C, Addison M J, *Addison P J P, Adewusi I A,* Adigun O O D, Afolayan S B, Afxentiou M A, Afzal S, Agarwal S D, Aggarwal K B, Aggarwal N, Agneray E M, Ah-Fat J P G, Ah-Kioon P, Ahmad F, Ahmad R, Ahmad Z, Ahmad Azmi Bin Abdul Rah, Ahmed S S, Aikins-Hawkson J, Ajibade O, Akiniola E A, Akintoye A, Akintoye O A, Akiwumi A L, Akposubi R O, Aldred S J, Alimahomed S G, Aliraza Merchant G, Allen A Y, *Allen C G, Allen C W, Allen H,* Allen M, Allen P A, Allen T F D, Alli A A, Allison A J, Allison J, Altman D L, Aluko E O, Amin K, Amin S, Amin T, Amiraly M E, Amor N, Anagbonu C J Y M, Anders L M, Anderson D, Andrew A S, Ang Bee Leng, *Ang Choon Inn, Ang Eng Sun,* Ang Kean Kok, Ang Kok Heng, Ang Wee Sian, Ang Yee Hla, Antoniou A, Antoniou M, Ao Lixin, Apejoye M, Appiou C, Arasu G, Arasu M T, Archibald L M, Argent S E, Argyrou B J, Arif Masud Mirza, *Armstrong E R,* Arnold R B, Arthur R A, Asafu-Adjaye J, Asamoah-Boakye Y, Ashley C J, Ashun-Sarpy P G, Asikawuru E U, Aslett R M, Aston A J, Atkins S E C, Atkinson S J, Attard A, Attuah-Asante S, Atwal R K, Au Chi Wai, Au Wai Yiu, *Au Yeung Wing Sze, Au Yuen Kwan M,* Aujla P S, Auton N M, Aw Chiew Lan, Awing M, Aylward M A, Azhim Hadi Daud, Azleen Suzanna Abu Bakar, Azmi Bin Mamat, Azura Hassan.

B *Panneer Selvam,* Badat Y M, Badliza Badrudin, Bae Wai Shun, Bailey B J, Bailor B B, Bains I, Bajaria K, Baker J C, Baker R S, Baker V, Bakuwa H M, Balakrishnan S, Balan G, Balasingam S-O Dhanasinga, *Baldwin R,* Balkaransing M D, Ball H F L, Ballard D, Ballard P N, Balogun A O J, Balogun W A, Bamydeen L, Banda J, Bannister J N, Baptie R G, Baran E J, Barbour S J, Barclay C K, Barkas J R W, Barkley D M, Barlow A J, Barnes J A, *Barnett D N, Barras D, Barrie A H,* Barry D, Barry F, Barry J W, Bartrum H J, Bashford J M, Bassi P, Bastien C O, Bateman G R, Bates D E, Bates E L, Bates L, Batrick H, Battersby R D, Battrick D H, Bayne K, Beale W D, Beamish N J, *Beastall J A, Beaumont L,* Beckford L A, Bee Chee Kok, Beegadhur L, Beeley C L N, Beh Bee Yong, Beh Tien Fang, Bellingall K, Bellingham J S, Benham M, Benjamin E G D, Bennett D J, Bennett R D P, Bennett S A, *Bennett Y R, Benson A M, Bentley S J,* Beoku-Betts D C, Berry C E, Berry J P, Berry L J, Berry P M, Beza V W, Bhadain S, Bhankaraully A D, Bharmal H T, Bhimbat V, Bhoorasingh A A, Bi Shan Shan, Biggs A, Billington K P, Binks D K, *Birnie R, Bisram V L, Bissessur R,* Biswas R D, Blackburn E A, Blackburn H W, Blair M A, Blake S A, Blaxall N, Blewuada J N, Blissett L G, Bloomfield G I, Bloor S J, Blyth S D, Boden J M, Body P J, Boo Miau Li A, Boo Yong Wah, *Boodhoo A, Booth M T, Boparai G S,* Botham L C, Bottom L, Boult C A, Boulton D A, Bourke K L, Bourne A J, Bowen G M, Bowers A J, Boyd D J, Brage J J, Braine M, Braksal M, Brand-Barker N R, Brandish D R, Bray S M, Brewin E J, *Brien W T,* Brooks D, Brown M G, Brown S C, Brown T A, Bryant M J, Buckle S L, Buckley B J, Buckley J J, Bugden C P, Bull C L, Bullough L A, Bunjun V, Bunn C J, Burgan S M, Burge M P, Burke J K T, Burling T F, Burlingham C W, Burnell B A, Burns C S, Burns J M, Burns K, Burns M, Burrage J, Burton G F, Bushnell P J, Butterfield P W, Buxton R H, Byrne A P, Byrne C M, Byrne F C, Byrne M, Byrne W N

Cahill R, Cairns G, Cakala A L, Callan P R, Campbell G, Campbell M J, Campion P R, Campta J D, Canet C S C, Cannon P R, Cannon S J, Cao Jia Lin, Capell T, Carew O, Carmody S M, Carolan N A, Carpenter R E, Carr A G, Carroll F, Carroll J, Carter J D, Case J L P, Casey D, Casey M A, Cattle A D, Causy N K, Cavanagh S J, Cearns K, Ch'Ng Seik Chan, Cha Swee Lian, Chabu E, Chadeesingh N, Chadzimura M, Chai Foong Peng, Chai Keye San A, *Chakravarty A M, Chambers C A,* Chambers K G, Chan S, Chan W, Chan Ah Chew A, Chan Ah-Song N, Chan Che Kwan, Chan Ching, Chan Ching Sing P, Chan Chui Chui P, Chan Chui Mei, Chan Chun Lam, Chan Chung Sze F, *Chan Chung Yu N, Chan Fai Kwong,* Chan Fung Man W, Chan Hon Sen C Q Y, Chan in Sam B, Chan Ka Ho, Chan Ka Leung, Chan Ka Pik, Chan Kai Min T, Chan Kam Chiu R, Chan Kim Meng, Chan Kin Ho, Chan Kin Yee, *Chan King Fai,* Chan King Hung, Chan Kit Fun, Chan Kong, Chan Kwok Yuen E, Chan Lai Ming B, Chan Lai Mun J, Chan Lee Fong, Chan Man Shan, Chan Miu Hing J, Chan Miu Kuen, Chan Poh Choo, Chan Pui Shan, Chan Sau Mui L, *Chan Seok Yee, Chan Shek Pan,* Chan Shin Yuen C C K, Chan Siew Hoon, Chan Siew Yeen, Chan Siu Ngo, Chan Siu Yin B, Chan Suen Tung C, Chan Suk Kuen F, Chan Suk Ying, Chan Sze Hon, Chan Tik Hing, Chan Tyng Tyng, *Chan Wai Lin, Chan Wai Man,* Chan Wai Mun, Chan Wai Mun C, Chan Win Way, Chan Wing, Chan Wing Sze, Chan Yam Man, Chan Yat J, Chan Yat Fung, Chan Yee Man, Chan Yee Wah, Chan Yee Yan, Chan Yim, Chan Yin Lin, Chan Yoke Shan, Chan Yuk Man, Chanda F, Chanda M D, Chandler C J, Chandler C D, Chang Siew Foong, Chang Sow Chuan, Chang Yuet Kwan, Chao Sin Man, Chaplin S, Chapman A F, Chappell M J, Chappell M, Charanjit Kaur D/O Verind, Charleton B, Charlton J A, Chase S, Chau Li Fong, Chau Pui Yan, Chau Wai Ting A, Chau Yim Yee, Chawla G L, Chay Jiun Yee, Che Heng Kok, Chea Wai Hing, Cheah Boon Pin, Cheah Ching Lee, Cheah Im Bee, Cheah Siew Ean, Cheam Tau Chern, *Chee Pau Yiit S,* Chee Tuck Loong, Chen Hei Choi, Chen Jin Yan, Chen Qiang Wen C, Chen Ran Yi, Chen Rong, Chen Wai Yee C, Chen Xiong Zhao, Chenery S R, Cheng Kit Sum, Cheng Shu Kai, Cheng Siu Kwan, Cheng Sum, Cheng Wan Fong, Cheng Wan *Hung, Cheng Wing Yiu,* Cheng Woon Kam, Cheng Xiao Hui, Cheng Yee Fun, Cheng Yuk Wah, Cheong Geok Lian L, Cheong Kar Lin, Cheong Kee Yoong, Cheong Wai Mun, Chequer Y H, Cher Wee Siang, Chettiar Hemalatha, Cheuk Ka Yiu, Cheung S H, Cheung W K, Cheung Che Chung, Cheung Cheuk Lun, Cheung Hing Yip, Cheung Kar Ming, Cheung King Fu, Cheung Kwok Man, Cheung Lai Kuen, Cheung Man Ho, *Cheung Mei Fung, Cheung Sui Ping A,* Cheung Suk Mui, Cheung Tsun Ching, Cheung Wai Keung, Cheung Wing Chi, Cheung Wing Han, Cheung Yan Chi B, Cheung Yat Leung, Cheung Yue Ming, Cheung Yuen Ka, Cheung Yuen Man, *Chew Bee Ling, Chew Mei Seen,* Chhokar R, Chia Leng Leng, Chia Moh Jing, Chia Siang Hai S, Chia Soon Chuan J, Chia Wan Lee K, Chiang Chum Tang, Chiang Ying Wai, Chibwe S, Chien Dik Chung, *Chiew Kuan Chin,* Chifungula A O, Chihana C C, Childs N A, Chim Wing Keung, Chin A M, Chin Chiew Yee, Chin Fong Chu, Chin Kok Weng, Chin Min Wan, Chin Suet Teng, Chin Ying Jack, Chinambu C, *Ching Hong Yang, Ching Suet Ping,* Chisem A, Chiteba C A, Chitra D/O Ammaiyappan, Chituta C, Chiu Chun Sing, Chiu Hau Yee P, Chiu Kam Hung, Chiu Kit Leung, Chiu Mei Wah A, Chiu Wai Man, Chiu Yiu May A, Chng Tang Buay, Cho Mei Wan, Choe Mee Kam I, Choi G, Choi Kam Fai, Choi Moo Seng, Choi Wing Fai, Chong Chui Ching, Chong Eu Kuan, Chong Hing Chuen, Chong Jiun Shyang, Chong Ki Fung, Chong Kong Yew, Chong Kuan Wai, Chong Lee Ping, Chong May Lee, Chong Mei Lam, Chong Phui Mee, Chong Shu Woan, Chong Siew Chen, Chong Sook Ling, Chong Su Kiong, Chong Wai Tuen, Chong Yoke Loy, Chong Yow Voon D, Choo Chee Seong, Choo Choon Kiang A, Choo Kiat Lien E, Choo Yee Ling @ Y L Cheok, Choong Choon Kait, Choong Sook Yuen, Choong Yin Fan, Chor Eng Chuan, Choudhury A A, Chouhan H J, Chow Hing Hon, Chow Lai Ming E, Chow Sung Tak, Chow Tze Lan, Chow Wai Lon, Chow Wai Sheung, Chow Wing Shan V, Chow Yin Fong, Chowdhury N A, Choy Kam Tong, Choy Kan Shing, Choy Kit Lin, Choy Pui Yan, Choy Wai Hong A, Choy Yew Kay, Christian S D, Christodoulou E, Christoforou G, *Chroma J, Chu M, Chu Kin Wai,* Chu Sau Ying A, Chu Siu Lung, Chu Tak Shun, Chua T K, Chua Chooi Lean, Chua Ean Peng, Chua Kian Huat, Chua Sor Khim, Chua Wee Seng W, Chuah Boon Hua, Chuah Sock Nee, Chuah Swee *Min, Chudoory D, Chui Kin Ping,* Chui Sau Lin, Chui Suk Ling, Chung S, Chung Chan Fa G, Chung Chi Kong, Chung Chun Kwong, Chung Mien Yi, Chung Su Yuen J V, Chung Tat Chiu, Churchill S N, Clark D L, Clark S R, Clarke A D, Clarke B, *Clarke J M J,* Clarke M S, Clarke P, Clarke P G, Clarke R, Clarkson C, Clayden J, Clayton K J, Clayton S, Cleary M, Clegg P T, Cleggett J F E, Cluff P, Coade J M A, Coates M A, Cobbold J T, Cockell J C, Cockram J D, Coen *P B, Cole B R, Cole W P O, Coleman* H D, Colledge I D, Colleran S M, Comber P R, Comiskey F A S, Comley A D, Conaty D A, Conlon O E, Connolly F J, Connolly J W M, Connolly L G, Conquest S A, Conrad F E, Conran B P, Conroy D, *Constantinescu B C,* Constantinou C F, Constantinou C P, Constantinou J, Constantinou M, Cooper A, Cooper C E, Copsey M T, Corcoran P, Corkish M F, Cormack T P, Costello D K, Costello K J, *Costelloe R M, Coutinho S C,* Coventry N C, Cox G E, Craddock G C, Crean D A, Creasy S P, Crocker K A G, Crombie D A, Cronin J B, Cross C S L, Cross L, Crouch B J, Cuddy K J, Cuming T D, Cumins J E, Cummins R A, Cummins S M, Curry J N, Curtis J I, Cutler K, Cutmore S A, Cyrus C M, Cyrus K E, Cyrus R R

D'Apice A M, D'Oliveira N M, Daborn M E, Daley C C, Dalpatadu A S, Dampare G A, Daniels C M, Dantas N J D, Darwood N D, Davies G, Davies P F, Davies S C, Davies S G W, Davis A C, Davis G M, Davis K M, Davis S C, Dawe G T, Dawson J A, Ddamulira E, Deakin D R, Deegan *J M, Deegan P T, Dellow A J,* Demartino A R, Demetriou A, Demetriou E, Deng Liangrui, Denison-Pender P R, Denyer C T, Denyer L D, Derashri S V, Deroubaix J A, Desai K, Desborough P I F, Devadason A/L *Arulsamy, Dewar E M, Dewhurst* M D, Dhanani K, Dhanjal J S, Dhas S, Dhillon B K, Dibbert-White M, Dick R W, Difrancescomarino E A, Din P E, Ditchfield D, Divan S, Dix C S, Djokoto S A, Dobson J, Dockerty M *W, Dodoo C, Doherty C, Doherty T* M, Dominiczak D, Domville J R, Donegan P G, Donnellan C A, Donnelly A, Dore L, Dorman W, Doshi D N, Doshi R, Doshi S, Doshi S P, Douglas J C, Douglas T N, Dowdall N M, Dowling A M, *Dowling P, Down A W, Downton J* H, Doyle L C, Drake J T, Drakley K E, Dreimane S, Dudson T M, Duncan B, Duncan I R, Dunford C M, Dunion P J, Dunne A P, Dunne A W, Dunnell I J, Durnin N, Dutton A J, Dutton M R, Dwan B N, *Dwyer S, Dyer A J, Dyer D J, Dzotsi S K*

Earnest D S, Easterbrook D K, Eaton S R, Ebdon D E, Ecart G M, Eckersall A K, Edwards J A, Edwards K A, Edwards L J, Edwards L D, Edwards R A, Elgie G P, Elizer J, Elkins A R, Ellis J, Ellis R D, Ellis V L, Ellison-Hall C L, Elsworth L, Eltaif S, Emmanuel D A, Erhardt H, Etheridge M L, Evans G B, Evans J C, Evans M B, Evans P, Evelyn M A, Everitt L

Fadoju M K, Fagan R J, Fagou Hemant Kumar, Fallon R W J, Fan Kit Fong Y, Fan Lin Chi, Fan Wing Yiu, Fang Shun Cang, Farha Hanina A-Rahman, Farisan Mokhtar, Farnsworth G W, Farrell S A, Farrow G S, Faulkner E J, Fecher M D, Feely D S, Feerick M G, Felix A J, Fenlon A J, Fenneymore W H, Fenwick J, Ferguson R L, Fernandez J G, Fernando M, Fettin U, Ffrench P A, Fielding S, Finnegan M J, Firoz Kassam, Fisher C J, Fisher D J, Fisher M G, Fisher M F, Fitch V, Fitzwilliam D K C, Fleming K M, Fleming S J, Fletcher K H, Flood A M, Floyde N, Flynn D V, Flynn D, Fok See Wai, Fong S, Fong Chiu Sheung, Fong Fong, Fong Hon Fan, Fong Wai Tak R, Fong Yuk Yee, Foo Chuan Biao, Foo Hou *Cheung, Foo Seow Kuen,* Foong Chooi Chin, Ford S J, Forde E C, Forintos A, Forman D M, Forster S C, Foster-Watts E C, Fotiou E, Fournel L A, Fowdar S, Fowler S M, Fraj M, Francis D, Francis E, Francis R M, Franklyn L L, Fraser G G, Fray J, Freeman M, Freeman N J, French H G, French P K, Freschini H A, Frieze C B, Frost G L, Fryer R P, Fu Ruenn Woan, Fu Yee, Fung Chi Yu, Fung Hon Nam, Fung Ka Yan Honey K, Fung Kit *Ying S, Fung Kwok-Wai P,* Fung Pui Yee P, Fung Shiu Hang, Fung Wai Har, Fung Wai Nei W, Fung Yau Man, Fung Yin Wan.

Gabbitass M J, Gabr S M, Gadeke N J, Gajdzis P M, Gallagher A, Gallantry K M, Gan Hwee Cheng, Gan Seong Sze, Gan Siew Kim, Gan Sing Leong, Ganaeva I, Ganpatsingh J I, Garey D B, Garner J, Garrigan R, Garry S I M, Gartland N A, Gates D M, Gavrilova L V, Gay I F, *Gearing J,* Georgiades P, Georgiadou C A, Georgiou Gregoriou G, Geraghty S M, Gerassimova E, Ghatahora P S, Ghee J A, Ghosh S S, Ghumra M R O, Ghurburrun D, Gibson C A, Gill D, Gill T S, Gillar K S, Gillespie A J, *Gilmartin B A, Gilmore A,* Gilmore N C, Girdler D J, Gittins J R, Gleeson E H, Gleig M A, Go Kian Lee, Goh Chin Yik, Goh Ein Nee, Goh Hock Khiam, Goh Lik Sin, Goh Siew Hong, Goh Soh Ting A, Goh Soo Chin @ Yeaw Soo C, Goh Swee Pheng, Goh U Jin, Goh Yen Peng, Gold C C, Goldblatt J D, Goldstone S J, Goliath D A M, Goo Su Fen, Goodhew I P A, Goodman A R, Goonewardene H S, Gopal C, Gopane L D R, Gopee T N, Gore-Langton J G, Gorey N M J, Gorman B A, Gormley G P, Gornall P L, Gosling J M, Gough D J, Goulborn P G, Goyal K K, Graham A, Graham P J, Graham R C, Graham S A, Green C W, Green K L, Green N J, Green S R, Greener C, Gregory Hood C J, Grenville J A, Griffin J C, Griffin P A, Griffiths M A, Griffiths N T, Griffiths R H, Griggs A J, Gros J P, Groves A M, Grzemski C K, Gubanyi Z, Gulbis J, Gunn I J, Gunton K N, Guo Hang Xiang, Gutteridge R, Gwee Siew Huan, Gwee Soh Guan.

Ha Hiu Chi B, Habibah Binti Abdul Hamid, Hade C P, Hadjimichael Y, Hadley G M, Hafiz Nouman, Hague J M, Hakim M A, Haldane L B, Halil Bishop S, Hall B, Hall C C, Halligan M P, Halloran C M, Halouzka J, Hamblin J M M, Hamilton A E, Hamilton L A, Hamilton R, Hampton J, Hanita Binti Mohamed, Hanley M T, Haq A, Haralambous G L, Harbourne J, Harcus D A, Harding A D C, *Harding S A, Hardoon H, Hardy A,* Hardy S, Harjit Singh S/O Harbhaja, Haroon M A, Harper A C, Harridge N J, Harrington G J, Harrington S E, Harripersad S S, Harris D A L, Harris M N, Harris P M, Harris S B, Harris S C, Harris T, *Harrison A J, Harrison L, Harrow* A, Hart R J, Hartgrove C R, Hartup D M, Harvey S L, Harvey-Robson R T, Hashmi H A A, Hassam G, Hassan P O, Hassan Hussain H M, Hassan Mb Jallow, Hassett S, Hasson J J N, Hatfield B J, Hau Ka *Yi, Hawaby Sultan Muhamad,* Hawkes G K, Hayes-Powell M A, Haynes C A R, Hayter C S, Hayter R D C, Hayward P J, Hayward T, He Yong Mei, Heald M F, Healy M, Heath J B, Heathwaite A, Heaton L, Heaw Yoong Yeow @ How Yoo, *Heffernan N m, Heggie D W,* Helme R T, Heneghan M E, Heney D, Heng Bee Lang P, Heng Han Chuah, Heng Pei Eng F, Heng Sze Kian J, Hennessy-Wright A H, Henry J D, Henstridge K L, Herbert D A, Herbert S G P, *Herinckx D J, Herrera K R, Hervie F* N, Hesse S A, Heung Yat Kuen, Hew Chooi Yoke, Hew Ejin, Hibbert N J, Hicks I D, Higgins C, Higgins E D, Higman N J, Hill G P, Hill J G, Hillbery A, Hilton S A, Hinchliff H, Hindley M, Hine J, Ho Bo Chu, Ho Chee Yin, Ho Cheuk Ki, Ho Chi Ling, Ho Chin Chin, Ho Cho Lin, Ho Choi Yan C, Ho Chui Ha F, Ho Hock Doong, Ho Ka Chung K, Ho Ka Man C, Ho Kam Wing A, Ho Kin Cheong K, Ho Kum Yin, Ho Kwok Keung, Ho Kwok Leung, Ho Lai Yuk, Ho Lee Hong, Ho Po Shing, Ho Siew Peng, Ho Su-Lin C, Ho Suk Kwan, Ho Tak Fai D, Ho Tak Hing A, Ho Twee Jiong, Ho Tze Pin, Ho Wai Yin, Ho Wan Kuen, Ho Wing Kai, Ho Yen Yee, Ho Yin Mei F, Ho Yuk Kwan, Hobbs S D, Hobson D A, Hockey A J, Hodgson C P, Hodgson J E, Hogton G, Holder J L, Holdsworth C E, Holgate K L, Holland E M, Holland P J, Hollier J M, Hollingshead N D, Hollomon S J, Holme J, Holmes J C, Holmes L, Holonga-Wotho T, Homawoo Q G, Hong Man Wah S, Hong Siew Mei, Hong Thuan Boon, Hood K, Hoon Choon Yen, Hoong Yik Yen, Hope G, Hopkins K A, Hor Tek Foong, Horgan D, Hoskins G A, *Hou L Y, Houston I R,* How Ching Yee, How Poo L Y, Howe M D, Howie M F, Hoyes M J, Hsi Yung Kai R, Hsu Chen Wen E, Hsu Yong Mei, Huang Shi Yang, Hudson E, Hudson K, Hughes D P, Hughes J H, Hui Chi Chuen, Hui Chun Kuen, Hui Ping, Hui Pui Ling, Hui Tsz Wai, Hui Wai Ching, Hull A S, Hume G, Humphries A, Humphries C L, Humphries S M, Hung Chi On J, Hung Hing Bun, Hung Hon Wah, Hung Kam Wah, Hung Kwok Wa, Hung Lien Fat G, *Hung Yiu Keung,* Hung Yuk Kam D, Hunsley C, Hunte J E, Hunter C, Huong Gek Keow M, Hurford S E, Hurley K J, Hutchings J M, Hwang Yoong Ai B, Hyland G G, Hyman T P

Ibikunle C O, Ibrahim M M, Iftekhar M, Iggo K B, Ilawole A, Im Ming Fung H, Imran Nazir, Ince P A, Inengite S G, Ingrouille N C, Ioannou Y, Ip Chung Lun, Ip Kit Yee, Ip Wai Chung A, Ironside R C, Irwin S R, Ishak H F, Islam Mohammad Rafiqul.

Jabbar S, Jac-During F B, Jackson A C, Jackson R E, Jackson S M, Jacobs A B, Jaggard N P, Jain A, Jakobsen H B, Jamal Nasir Abdul Rahman, James H E, James M P, James T B, Jankowski M K, Jarrett G A, Jaslinda Ahmad, Jayashanker S-O Rajagopal, Jearajasingam S, Jebb L, Jenkins K A, Jenkinson N P, Jenner S R, Jeremiah H D, Jervis L S, Jhary Atmanand, Jiang Hong, Jim Pak Keung P, Jin Fei Fei, John D O, Johns R A, Johnson A A, Johnson A I, Johnson J D, Johnson M B, Johnson O O, Johnson Q G, Johnson S M, Johnston L, Johnston S M, Johnston S H, Jolly S, Jones A R, Jones C A, Jones C L, Jones C E, Jones D A, Jones D A, Jones E M, Jones G, Jones J M, *Jones J S, Jones L, Jones M V, Jones* M A, Jones M C, Jones N T, Jones T J, Jones W, Joomun N, Joseph J, Josephs C A, Joyce D, Junankar N

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S'Ng Gek Sim, Saadiah Bte A Wahid, Sabur S, Sagoo J S, Salfee Y Y, Sakkas N E, Salim M I, Salkeld S E, Sallah T, Salleh S, Sam Weng Shen, Samant R, Sampson J, Samra P S, Samtinar Shuaib L, Samuel S M, San Y S, Sandford-Evans P A, Sandhu N S, Sandrasagaram D, Sangani K, Sanghera G S, Sanghera K S, Sapozhnikova K L, Sarvaiya S V, Sasraku F M, Saunders C P, Saunders R S, Savage J G, Savva S, Savva S, Saw E B, Saw Sin Moi, Sawers F, Sazaliza Zainuddin, Scaplehorn B R, Scarsbrook M C, Schmulian H, Schnuppe G, Schofield P A, Schranz E, Schwartz P S, Scott A C, Scott E A, Scott E G, Scott K, Scrivener D M, Sculthorpe J B, Seah-Han Poh B, Seah Shu Ping S, Searle D K, See Kah Hiok, *See Siew Lan,* See Wai Ling, Seenath A, Seennapen D, Seesurrun R, Seetal F B, Segal A J, Segal R, Sek Peck Geok, Sekowski J, Selli N, Semple G R, Seow Hock Meng, Seth N, Sewak V S, Sh Zuraihan SBS Zulfilda, Shacallis L, Shah A C, Shah A, Shah A M, Shah D, Shah D, Shah H, Shah L M, Shah N D, Shah P J, Shah P, Shah R R, Shah S A, Shah S, Shahid Bague Mirza, Shakespeare P, Shakil Ahmed Begani, Shakoor Z, *Shanahan M G,* Shanks M D, Shanley G P, Sharifah Hanizah Bt S Mus, Sharkey C J, Sharma R, Sharma R, Sharma-Maharaj A M, Sharp M C, Sharp S R, Sharpe I G, Sharples G P, Shattock D E, Shaw M A, Shaw S, Sheahan M, Sheh Seng Yan, *Shek Ho Leung,* Shek Kwok Man, Shek Mee Lin N, Shelton I J, Sheng Jian Xia, Shepherdly M, Sheppard G, Sherene Yahya @ Yahia, Sheridan A G, Sherwin M A, Shihn S S, Shikold R M, Shilukobo G, Shina R, Shipley I W, Shipstone D, Shiu Sui Sum A, Shonibare A L, Shooter P B, Short A, Short D, Shortall J N, Shortman G J, Shukri Zainuddin, Shum Lee, Si Hop Yee, Siankope G, Siaw Min Siong, Sibanda E, Sibert R L, Sichilango W, Sidat Z, *Siddiqi S A,* Sidhu S K, Sie Sook Fun, Siew Sum Lam K K, Silkin V, Silva M, Silver-Myer P R, Silvester D N, Sim Ai Ling, Sim Hui Gek, Sim Mui Lan, Sim Shean Shu, Simmonds D J, Simmonds L S, Simon C P, Simpson D A, Simpson D H, Sims E V, Simusamba A G, Sin Tak Keung, Sin Wai Yee C, Sing Fat J F, Singah D, Singh A, Singh H, Singh N, Sinikas I, Sinthamoney D, Siow Kwee Hen, Siow Yean Ling, Siu Min G, Siu Chi Man, Siu Fung Kam, Siu Kwok Keung, Siu Man Yee, Siu Wai Leung M, Siu Yun Tang, Sivaganeshan S, Sivagnanapiragasam T, Sivaji G, Sivanadyan S, Sivarajah S, Sivayoham R, Siyolwe M V, Skane P, Skelding J B, Skelly S, Slade S J, Slater N M, Slavin K, Sloan B, Smart A P, Smears B J, Smith A J, Smith C A, Smith C D, Smith C A, Smith D L, Smith D, Smith F D, Smith G C, Smith I C, Smith J T, Smith N A, Smith P W, Smith S N, Smith T L, Smith V, Smulek P L, Smutny P, Smyth F, Smyth P A, Smyth S J, Smyth T J, Snape M J, Sng Chia Hwee L, Sng Puay Leng, Sng Siew Eng J, So Chun Yin W, So Kam Fong W, So Mei Yee, So Wai Man, So Yuk Ki, Socratous C, Socratous S, Sofat V, Soh Choon Huay, Solanki M N, Solanki Devil Dharmendra, Sole G R, Solt C P, Soman S, Somers C, Sooeji N P, Soo Hoo Sue Ling, Soo Hwee Yen, Soo Kim Fui J, Soomarooah J, Soon Lian Chew, Sophocleous A S, Sou Wun Iong, Soukupova M, Southwell J P, Spafford M D, Sparrow M, Sparrow T M, Spear M A, Spencer M D, Spencer R, Spencer R G, Sperling Tyler I P, Spicer G N, Spindler P M, Spratt M A, Sproston H A, Srimathi R, Srinivas V, Sriram N, Stacey J A, Stack B P, Stafford D J, Stafford T E, Stair V E, Staite G M, Stalker-Booth J E, Stanley I F, Stanley P A, Stark N G, Steele K J, Steele M B, Stefaniak J, Steiner A F, Stelfox M D, Stephens R A, Stephens S K, Stevenson D, Stewart D J, Stewart G D, Stewart P, Sthapit D K, Stoddart F J, Stokell B, Stopka W, Storey P, Stothard T, Strachan V J, Stringer R J, Stubbs K, Stylianou S, Subramaniam R, Sui Tit Tong L T, Sui Tit Tong M C, Sukhdep Kaur, *Sulaiman N, Sulemanji M,* Sullivan C S, Sullivan J, Sullivan S M, Summoogum D, Sung Hem Kuen, Sureshkumar C, Sutherland T A, *Sweeney S J,* Swift A C, Swift J A, Syed Ahmed Ms Jaffar, Sykes A C, Sykes T, Sylvester A, *Symonds M D, Szabo G, Szabo* P, Szczachor R, Szczepiorkowski P M, Szczerbetka Z, Sze Siew Hoon, Szegedi G, Szelag B A, Szeto S, Szmigielski M

Ta R, Tailor A, Tailor J, Taiwo A A, Takialsingh S D, Talwar A, Tam Chi Kin, Tam Fu Lok, Tam Kar Yee C, Tam Kwan Ming, Tam Ying, Tam Yiu Chung, Tam Yiu Fai, Tan C K, Tan J, Tan J, Tan Ang Bee, Tan Bee Kam, Tan Boon Tin J, Tan Cheng Cheng, Tan Chew Yean, Tan Chin Hong, Tan Choon Keat, Tan Choon Lan, Tan Chze Kian, Tan Gek Lan J, Tan Gim Soon, Tan Goh Kim Nai, Tan Heng Chye C, Tan Ho Kheong, Tan Hon Meng, Tan Hong Khoon, Tan How Poo, Tan Huang Bee, Tan Kay Hian, Tan Kok Mian V, Tan Kwee Eng, Tan Kwee Eng, Tan Lai Huat, Tan Lay Kwan, Tan Lay Way, Tan Lee Lang, Tan Li Lee, Tan Mary, Tan Mei Meng E, Tan Mui Nam, Tan Pek Hwa, Tan Poh *Chuen, Tan Pui Suang,* Tan See Hau, Tan Siew Cheng, Tan Siew Yen, Tan Siew Yin, Tan Sing Yong L, Tan Song Ngee A, Tan Soon Hoe, Tan Su Peng, Tan Su Ping, Tan Swee Heng, Tan Swee Lin, Tan Teck Swan, Tan Teow Yen, *Tan Wai Kuan, Tan Wai Leong W,* Tan Wei Lian, Tan Wei Ling, Tan Yee Wah, Tandel H, Tang Cheuk Wai T, Tang Kwok Fai, Tang Kwok Ying, Tang Lai Shan, Tang Lap Ki, *Tang Leung Ying J,* Tang Man Kwong, Tang Min, Tang Oi Ping, *Tang Shuet Mui, Tang Sing Hong* C, Tang Yoke Jing, Tang Yuk Hing, Tang-Lee S Y, Tanner K J, Tanton R J, Tanton R P, Tariq Mahmood Mushtaq, Tartaglia R L, Tavener N A, Tay Bee Tin I, Tay Bok Chye, Tay Boon Hock, Tay Chee Choong W *H, Tay Jey Huey, Tay Kian Hong D,* Tay Sheve Li, Tay Soon Seng, Taylor M, Taylor S, Tche Heng Hou, Tee B Y, Tee Kui Shi, Tee-Bangura F, Teh Paik See, Teh Poh Hoon A, Tehami Z, Telesford T D, Telli U R, Tembo K, Teng Lai Fong, *Teng Tai Chuang, Teo Chuan* Ching, Teo Pei Khim K, Teo Pui Fong, Teo Seh Chien, Teo Sze Bee J, Teoh Ah Guan, Tham Khye Shin, Tham Thoi Moon J, Tham Yoke Yen D, Thangavelu V, Theertham R, Then Guang Yaw, Theodorou T C, Thien Hon Leong, Thillainayagam L, Thomas A J, Thomas A C, Thomas B E, Thomas D M, Thomas I E, Thomas M P, Thomas M, Thompson E M, Thompson H M, Thompson R W, Thompson S, Thompson W M, Thong Kim Pik, Thorn A J, Thornton K A, Thung Sai Fun, Tierney P, Tiew Hock Ling C, Timmins C S, Timotheou M, Tin Ming Kaw N T, Ting Door Chui @ Chan D C, Ting Seen Ai, Tio Bik Kei A, Tio Yit Ching, Tiong Kong Ling J, Tiong Ngiik Chuo, To Chi Lok, To Man Yuen, To Siu Ha, To Yee Man, To Yiu Bun, Toburt I A, Toh Guan Hoe, Tomlinson K L, Tong Boon Lian, Tong Chi Shing, *Tong Hang Mei M, Tong Ki Sun,* Tong Shu Wa, Tong Sze Wan, Tong Wai Fan, Tong Wai Kwan, Tong Yin Ling, Tong Yuen Ching, Toofany R H, Topham H S, *Travkina M,* Treherne V M, Trellis N S, Triaros P, Trice L M, Trilok L D, Trinder N S, Trueman-Dicken W H, Tsa Kit Sheung K, Tsang E, Tsang Chiu Hung, Tsang Heung, Tsang Kwong Yip, Tsang Kit Yee, Tsang Nga Mei K, Tsang Man Yi, Tsang Nga Kwan, Tsang Nga Yee J, Tsang Wing Yi S, Tsang Pui Yee, Tsang Wing Yee, Tsang Yiu Kwong, Tsao N Yee, Tse Chi Ho, Tse Tsar Yuk Ying, Tse Siu Mui, Tse Wai Sheung Lan, Tse Yik Keung, Tse Yue Man, *Tseu Nyuk Yee S,* Tsoi Kit Fong, Tsoi Wing Fan C, Tsompov R, Tak, Tsui Fei Fung, Tsui Mei Lin, Tu Ya Ching, Tuckey C, Tull M, Tully P A, Tulsi R D, Tun Noor Shahya T A, Tuncel I, Turner C E, Turner M W, *Turpie S J, Tustain L R,* Tyers D S, Tyler S, Tyrrell D G

Ujlaki G, Umenyiiora T, Underwood T S, Ung Thean Lim, Upshall R J, Upton J P, Uszczuk I H

Vaghani S B, Vali I, Van Hotson V, Van Rynbach R J, Vasir J S, Vassie S, Vaughan L J, Vautrey D N, Vaya H D, Vere J M, Vidgen D, Vijay Kumar Ramachandran, Vijiakumar S/O Desadasan S, Vine-Lott A M, Virgili D A, *Vlasakova M, Vojkuvkova E,* Volk K

Waddell K A, Wadsworth G M, Waft J L, Walker B, Walker J M, Walker T M, Wall J M, Wall S J, Walsh A P, Walsh B P, Walsh J C, Walsh L M, Walsh N J, Walsh S L, Walters D N, Wan Chor Ning H, Wan Hon Keung, *Wan Hon Wai W,* Wan Lik Man, Wan Man Hong, Wan Ning Kwon R V, Wang Fan Chiang, Wang Gaofang, Wang Kok Liang, Ward G A, Ward S A, Wardman S L, Warner C J, Warren J W, Warren K R, Warren N A, Wat Chi Ha J, Waters F A, Watson D A, Watson E V, Watson K A, Watts C M, Waugh J, Waugh P, Wayman A J, Webb B M, Webber D A, Wee Siao Tieng, Wee Siew Ping R, Weiss D, Welch R M, Weller A W, Wen Ming Kwan A, Wheeler D P, Whelan J A, Whelan J J, Whig M, Whiley L C, Whillock I D, White E B, White R A, Whittaker G P, Whymark J, Whyte A M, Wignall T M, Wijeratne T K, Wilding C F, Wilkins S J, Wilkins W C, Wilkinson J P, Williams A J, *Williams A R,* Williams S J, Williamson M K, Willis A J, Willis J L, Wilson A I, Wilson D M, Wilson G S, Wilson K V, Wilson M C, Wilson R E, Wilson R, Windsor P, Wingrove K L, Winn S L, Winslow N K, Winter E, Winter G S, *Winterburn J,* Winyard J J, Wiseman W, Wisniewski T P, Withall M T, Wolton D A, Won Yin Peng, Wong Chau Hwa, Wong Chee Meng, Wong Cheuk Bun, Wong Chi Kin, Wong Chi Kwong, Wong Chi Kwun, Wong Chi Yin, *Wong Chiew Yuen,* Wong Chor Sheng, Wong Chun Shing J, Wong Chun Sing, Wong Fung Chun, Wong Hin Hin, Wong Hoi Chu, Wong Hoi Tak, Wong Hok Sun J, Wong Hon Ming, Wong Ka Bik, Wong Ka Kee K, Wong Ka Lun, *Wong Kai Keung,* Wong Kai Ming, Wong Kam Suen K, Wong Kar Lok, Wong Kim Man, Wong Kin Fai C, Wong Kin Ho, Wong Kin Hong J, Wong Kin Tak, Wong King Yin, Wong Kong Wai, Wong Kooi Vee, Wong Kwong Ling, Wong Ma Lei, Wong *Man Ching S, Wong Man* Tai, Wong Man Yu J, Wong May Lian, Wong Mei Fong A, Wong Mei Sean, Wong Min Lee, Wong Ming Yun K, Wong Mui Choo N, Wong Nam Cheong, Wong Nam Wah, Wong Ngar Chor, Wong Oi Kam, Wong Oi Ling, Wong Pik Lin, Wong Poh Keong, Wong Sau Chun, Wong Sau Tak E, Wong Shin Ming, Wong Shiu Ki, Wong Shuk King G, Wong Shwu Fung, Wong Siu Fan, Wong Siu Fung, Wong Siu Man, Wong Siu Man, Wong Siu Ngan, Wong Suk Hung J, Wong Sze Ning B, Wong Teck Leong, Wong Tuck Wai, Wong Tuck Yuen, Wong Wai Ip, Wong Wai Leuk C, Wong Wai Ling, Wong Wai Ming, Wong Wan Po P D, Wong Weng Leong, Wong Wing Lui D, Wong Woei Chu, Wong Yan Seung, Wong Yee Ting, Wong Yeh Nam, Wong Yim Sum, Wong Yin Ni, Wong Ying, Wong Yoke Mei, Wong Yu Chee, Wong Yuen Tim, Wong Yuk Chun, Woo Kok Fai, Woo Ling G, Woo Wai Kin R, Wood M M, Wood S J, Woodcock N E, Woodford K C, Woodhall K L, Woodham H, Woodhouse D J, Woodhurst S D, Woodnott-Miller J L, Woods A R, Woods S M, Woods S M, Wooldridge J, Woolley S H, *Woon Heng Lee, Woon Siew Yee,* Worth C A, Worthington S C, Wright A R, Wright M M, Wright P J, Wright P M, Wright P S, Wright R B, Wu Chun Chui C, Wu Kwok Kin C W, Wu Li Lian, Wu Man Kin L, Wu Sin Ching, Wu Wai Sum, Wu Wen Nan, Wu Yuen Wah, Wu Yuk Man, Wu Zong Yan, Wynne L

Xu Li, Xu Rong.

Yahia Yousif Mohamed Osma, Yam So Fun E, Yan Chui Wan, Yan Kin Wai, Yang Hoi Wah, Yang Lie Bin, Yang Mo Wa W, Yanwube J C, Yap W M, Yap Chee Fong, Yap Chee Wei, Yap Li Huei, Yap Shee Boon, Yap Siew Peng, Yap Weng Seong, Yau Kin Wa, Yau Kwok Wing T, Yau Lai Ngo, Yau Mei Wah, Ye Na J, Yearman R K, Yee Lai Yeng, Yen Lee @ Chan Yen Lee C, Yeo Li Hwa, Yeo May Leng W, Yeo Poh Neo, Yeo Swee Thiam, Yeoh J, Yeoh Chee Seah, Yeoh Chia Hui S, Yeoh Leng Choo, Yeoh Siok Kheng, Yeong Chia Peck, Yeow Ee Pheow, Yep Lai See N, Yeung Ka Yin K, Yeung Kwok Kuen, Yeung Shuk Wa, Yeung Wai Chi, Yeung Wai Ling, Yeung Wai Yim, Yew Kum Foong, Yew Yuen Yuen, Yik Kuen Koon, Yim Ka Chun, Ying Yuk Sim, Yip Chee Kwang, Yip Chong Kuan, Yip Huey Huey, Yip Li-Ping, Yip Wai Hon, Yip Wai Ting A, Yip Yoke Mui, Yiu Pik Tao, Yogaraj S-O Thuraisingam, Yong Chung Sin, Yong Fung Ping, Yong Kai Peng, Yong Keng Choon, Yong Kui Lee, Yong Suh Fang, Yong Swee Lin, Yong Wee Peng, Yong Weng Onn, Yoong Kim Lian J, Yoong Lai W H, Yu Chon Sang, Yu Hoi Sze G, Yu Kim Wai, Yu Kwok on, Yu Wai, Yu Wai Chun, Yu Wai Lin, Yu Wing Chuen D, Yuan Guitai, Yuen Chi Ka, Yuen Ka Ming L, Yuen Lai Kwok, Yuen Wai Man, Yuen Wing Mun M, Yuen Yuk Kwan, Yuen Yuk Yin, Yuk Wai Chan C, Yung Chun Keung D M, Yung Yick Yu.

Zabnienska K H, Zaloudkova J, *Zemenides A P, Zhan Di* Hong, Zhang Man Li M, Zhang Xinmin, Zheng Min Jie, Zhong Shan, Zhong Ying C, Zhou Jiawei, Zhu Hong Fang, Zhu Yonghong, Zienkiewicz S A, Ziga L A, Zikhalo Johnstone Jere, Zubair Ahmad, Zulu C.

The Institute of Legal Executives Fellowships Admissions 1996

The following obtained Fellowship Status at the Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) during 1996

Abrahams G H; A'Court L A; Adams M L; Adiem C; Ager S; Aggett J L; Albin C; Alen-Buckley G M A; Alexander F V M; Allen B; Allen C J; Allen D C; Allen N F; Aloba D E; Alobaido J; Armitage K J; Arnup J N; Ashcroft A; Aspinall D E; Asquith A M; Astles N G; Atherstone L; Atkinson D P; *Atkinson L; Atterbury L A; Attwell* J F; Austin K S.

Bacon L M; Bailey R; Bainbridge H V; Baker L; Baker T J; Bandy P R; Barfoot J M; Barilone E; Barlow S E; Barton J R; Barton P; Bartram S L; Bartholomew A; Bate S; Batter G M L; Baxendale J R; Baxendale J S; Baylis S J; Beal D; Beard V A; Beaumont M; Beechen R; Bell C A; Belfield M D; Bennett G

S C; Brodie P A; Brookes K L; Brooks D J; Brown C E; Brown D M; Brown J L N; Brown M R; Buckingham D E; Buckworth S; *Bullock C A;* Bulman S M; Bunyan K J; Burns C S T; Bushby A J; Buttery C; Button S D; Byrne M; Byrom L G; Caig A; Callaghan M G; Calvy M B; Capon A B; Capstaff H A; Carney M L; Carr A J; Carr T E; Carter J; Cathcart T J; Chambers D S; Chambers E B; Chainani N M; Chan R; Chan T Y R; Chapman M J; Chapman S J; Charles S M S; Cheung C W; Cheng K W; Christopher L R; Chung T W; Clark N J; Clarke A S; Clayton A E; *Clifton-Timms P L; Coates E M;* Cobham S J; Coker H J; Coles P M; Collins J E; Collins S F; Collins S M J; Collinson-Smee T P; Cook D; Cooke P A; Coop D W; Cooper J M; Cooper S L; Coppard R C; Cornall S L; Corrigan J R; Costello R J; Cotson N J; Coulter A; Cox M A; Coyle J A; Crabtree S; Craine M; Creasy N A; Criddle F S; Croft N; Crompton B; Croome T L; Cure S E.

Doran A J; Douglas D; Douglas M G; Dowson C L; Dubut P D; Dugard J M; Dulay H; Duncan P; Dunstan L.

Easter J R; Edkins D M; Edwards D J; Edwards P P; Eggers S Y; Elliott S; Ellis L J; Elsey S; Emm G D; Essai F; Etherington K; Evans G E; Evans P J; Eve J A.

Fairbairn E J; Farrelly M P; Fellows K; Fenn M T; Fennelly P; Fish J; Fishlock E A; Fitzpatrick J; Fleetwood H S A; Folwell P A; Ford C J; Fosbrook E J J; Foster S J; Fotheringham H J; Foulkes K E; *Fountain C J; Fowler D J;* Freeman J M; Fung K K; Fuschillo A C M.

Gabell J M; Gadd L P; Galloway K; Galway T L; Game D S; Gammon M D; Gaughran C J; Gearing A J; Gibbs J; Gibson S; Gleeson J; Glynn J C; Goddard J; Golder J; Golds S J; Goldsbrough C; Good A M C; Goodenough A P; Goodison M; Goodwin C M; Gorman C; Gould S A; Gowen D M; Grace G S; Graham M; Grant P

Harding S M; Hardy A T; Hardy K Y; Harries D; Harrington C D; Harris D J; Harrison G; Harrison G M; Hart D S; Harvey-Pitnaway A J; Harwood E; *Hassall J N; Hawtin* R G; Hayes S M; Hayward T G; Helliwell E; Henfrey C A; Henry M M; Herbert J L; Hewitt S N; Hewson F; Higgins A E; Hill C E; Hill K; Hilton P R; Hilton V; Ho K W K; Ho M C; Holden L; Holden T J; Holland C H; Hollywood S M; Holmes J T; Hopley G J; Horler F M; Hoskins J E; Howe N; Hughes M J; Hughes S A; Hugo J K; Hulsh K L; Humphreys M K; Hunter-Rowe C; Hussey J M.

Ingrem S C; Ioannou-Cherry A.

Jackson A E; Jackson B S; Jackson L; James V S; Jenking S; *Jennings O N; Jennings S C;* Jerome R A; Johnson F L; Johnston Jones T D; Jones C A; Jones C V; Jones L A; Jones M A; Jones F W; Jordan T A D.

Labdon J M; Lam C K; Lambert S L; Lambert S M; Landlmore C; Lane L J; Lattin S W; LAW W Y T; Lawler V C; Leach H E; *Leach S; Ledger J A; Ledger R J;* Lee L L; Lee P J; Leeming S; Lees C D; Leung K Y; Lewis J L; *Lewis P A;* Lewis-Manning C; Lindley M C; Lines G D; Link S W; Lloyd K M; Lomas S; Long J; Lovatt J P; Lucas H A; Lynn L R; Lyon S J.

McCabe A D; McDermott J A; McGee C A; McGlade C A; McHugh H J; McHugh J J; McIntyre N A; McLeod L; McNamara J; Magee K; Maidment S; *Malcolm R J; Males C; Mallon A* P; Mandalia V L; Mann K L; Mann L V; Mann R H; Mapp A D; Merino L; Mark I L; Mark J N; Marshall C A; Marshall S; Martyr R J; Mason C A; Matthews E J; Medler G B; Mehmet F; Middleton J R P; Miles S N; Millar D J; Milligan J P; Mills D J; Mills J A; Milne S L; Mittleman F S; Mollaghan M M; Montgomery C E; Moore J G; Moore V; Moran K; Moriarty A M; Morland E; Morris B J; Morris D A; Morris S E; Morris-

Oates P L; O'Connell E J; O'Dwyer S A; O'Fee J A; O'Hora J; Orbell N J; Oldfield J D; Oliver C M; Oliver J L; Oliver Z D; Opperman A J; Otchere G G; Oxby M.

Pacey H L; Palmer A G; Palmer R A; Palmer-Head C D; Pankhurst A J; Pape R J; Parkin W M; Parpotta E; Parr N J; Parsons A R; Pascoe V; Patrick J E; Payne C; Peacock A J; Peake A D; Pealling P M; Pedro C A; Pennington L T; Peplow J; Percival S L; Perkins L E; Phillips C A; Phillips R J; Phipps C J; Pierce F; Pilgrim H C; Pimblett R M; Plaskitt D; Pollard V E; Polley L E; Poole N J; Powell C V; Powell D E; Pratt P J; Preston P A; Priest G P; Priestman T; Prince S L; Prodger C L; Pugh E L.

Radford A J; Raine K R; Raines J H; Raj P S; Ramzan M S; Rani J A; Ravenscroft S J; Read S E; Rees-Perrin A A; Reeve N E; Reilly J M; Rendle K J; Renshaw D S; Revie R

Rowell D; Rowlands E G; Rowley P A; Rudd J E; Ruff M A; Russell S E; Ryan L A.

Sadigh S L M; Sale T D; Salmon P; Salway G E; Samad L S; Samways D A; Sanders N D; Sanderson R L M; Sands P; Sargent J E; Satchwell J L; Savage K L; Savill A; Sayer C L; Scanlon S G; Schindler J L; Schmidt-Tebelmann A M; Scorah A; Scott A; Scott A J; Searl E J; Searle V R; Seed C E; Sefton H J; Selvasagaran T; Sergeant E G; Service B L; Shacklock V T; Shafto R G; Shanahan F D; Sharpe M G; Shaw A E; Shaw C D; Sheehan A L; Sheffield W A; Sheffield M; Short J L; Shillingford J D; Shirra F G; Simpson H S; Sims L; Skeet S; Skelton J C; Skill J; Smith A E; Smith C S; Smith F B; Smith H C L; Smith J J; Smith L E A; Smith M J; Smith P A; Smith S; Smith S; Smith S T; Spanner L J; Spriggs S M; Squire H R; Stables P G; Stace A D; Stallard N G; Stanton J; Stapleton E M; Steele T E; Stephen

Tate W; Taylor A M; Taylor S A; Taylor S J; Thackeray S E; Thomas S; Thomas T A; *Thompson N;* Thompson S F; Thomas J E; Thorp A; Tilfourd D M; Tollitt A J; Tow A D; Townsend K M; Treacher M R; Treble M; Tree C E; Tricker T L; Trotman W F; Trubshaw L J; Truin E J; Tucker J M; Tucker P; Tully J D; Tunney C A; Turner N R.

Uppal J K; Upton A C; Upton D J.

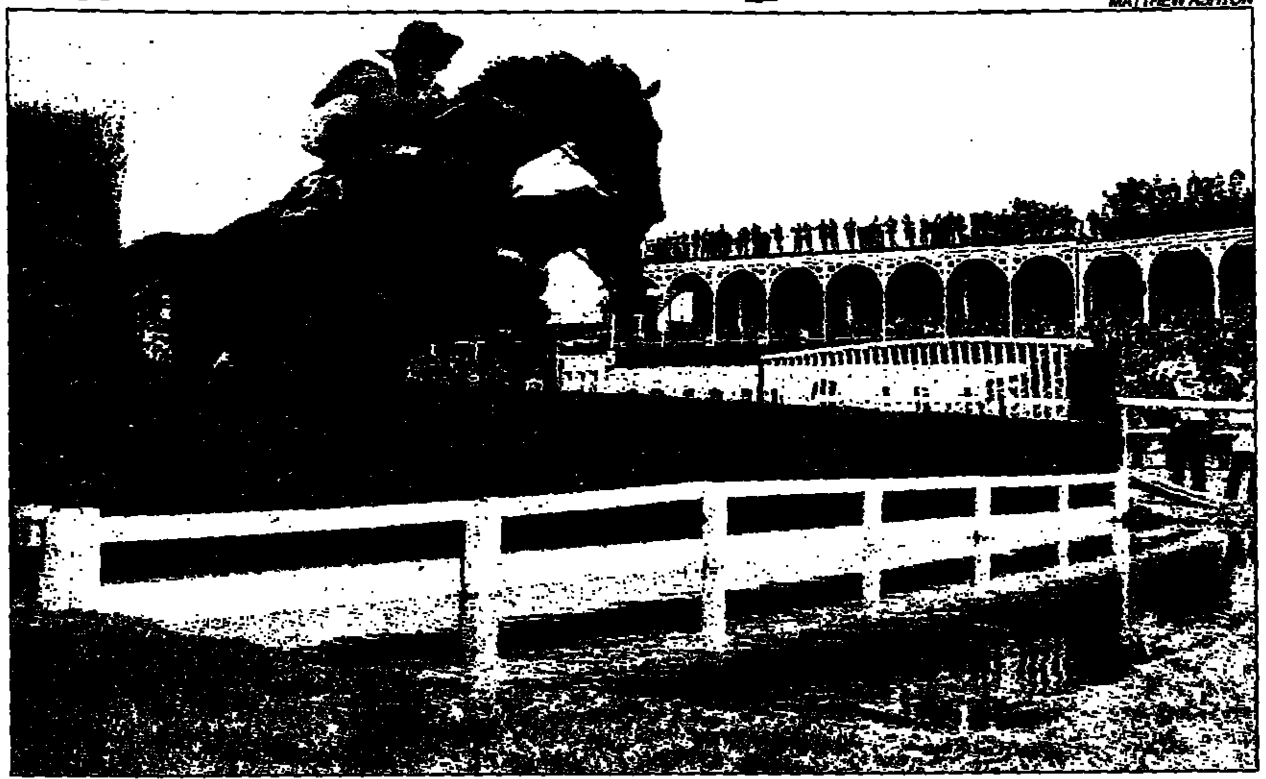
Varga A L; Vaughan-Jackson J S; Vengan N P; Vesey I A; Vingoe *A G; Vipond M A;* Vittadini A I F.

Wade H W; Wales B J; Walker A M; Walker C A; Walker L J; Walker S C; Waller C M; Walters G P; Ward D S; Ward J H; Warne A J; Watson A E; Webb K D; *West J A;* Whinyates D G; White H B; White J K; Whitehead D; Whiting M A; Whittaker D; Wilkinson M L; Williams E M; Williams N L; Williamson S J; Willis H L; Willis T L; Wilson A M; Wilson E J; Wise J B; Wise N J W; Wiseman

RACING: GROWING SUPPORT FOR IRISH-TRAINED CHAMPION HURDLE HOPE

I'm Supposin invites speculation

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent


MATTHEW ASHTON

Tellicherry leaps over the water jump on the way to victory in the novices' chase at Ludlow yesterday

I'M SUPPOSIN emerged as a Champion Hurdle "springer" yesterday — and an examination of the Irish raider's smart Flat form helps to explain why.

The Kevin Prendergast-trained five-year-old, who will be ridden at Cheltenham by Charlie Swan, finished a fine fifth in the Irish St Leger behind stablemate Oscar Schindler. He was beaten only half a length by Pilsudski, the subsequent Breeders' Cup Turf winner, in the Royal Whip at the Curragh, and won the *Ulster Harp Derby* at Down Royal in July.

The heavy support for I'm Supposin, who has won both starts over hurdles this winter, prompted Ladbrokes to cut his odds from 10-1 to 8-1 yesterday. "People feel if he can translate that Flat form to hurdles he will come to Cheltenham with an outstanding chance," Mike Dillon, the bookmakers' spokesman, said.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MOONLIGHTER
(5.00 Newbury)
Next best: Splendid Thyne
(2.00 Newbury)

I'm Supposin was given a rating of 112 in the end-of-season International Classifications, just 1lb below the mark awarded to Alderbrook in 1995 only months before he won the Champion Hurdle, and superior to the Flat form showed by Collier Bay and Sanmartino.

Prendergast, who saddled Talgo Abbess to finish third to Saucy Kit in the 1967 Champion Hurdle, said yesterday: "I have had four runners at the Festival and all have been placed, but this would be my best chance. He has always been a good horse without getting to the heights on the Flat. When he first jumped a hurdle in November the way he measured it you would think he had been jumping all his life."

The form of I'm Supposin's second hurdle success, in which he beat Finnegan's Hollow by an effortless seven lengths, was boosted when the runner-up came within inches of beating the highly regarded Istabraq, under a hands-and-heels ride at Leopardstown earlier this month.

Ladbrokes has pushed out Imperial Call, last year's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, to 5-1 (from 4-1) after reports of a disappointing workout at Clonmel racecourse yesterday. However, jockey Conor O'Dwyer declared himself happy with the horse.

Prendergast cast his eye over I'm Supposin's Cheltenham opponents and added: "You cannot discard a previous winner such as Collier Bay but the connections of the fancied runners all say they want soft ground. My horse doesn't mind any ground. He's won on soft and hard and has a good cruising speed."

With more than three inches of rain having fallen at Cheltenham since February 10, the going is officially good. Edward Gillespie, the managing director, said a further inch was required before the Festival and if it does not rain the taps will be turned on.

His remarks came at the official opening of Cheltenham's magnificent new five-level Tattersalls grandstand, the highlight of which is a glass-fronted restaurant overlooking the home of National Hunt racing. The 300-seater restaurant will be one of the most sought after — and expensive — viewing areas next month. The Festival price tag is £345 per person — and that does not include drinks.

With an ample supply of lavatories, bars and Tote betting booths, the new grandstand should help to ease the crush which has been a feature of the Festival in recent years as crowds build up to 60,000 on Gold Cup day.

The Horserace Totalisator Bill, which will enable the Tote to bet on non-sporting events for the first time, received the Royal Assent yesterday.

Bahhare's progress delights Dunlop

By Julian Muscat

BAHHARE, ante-post favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, has resumed faster work in preparation for the Flat season's first classic at Newmarket on May 3. The unbeaten son of Woodman is to warm up for the one-mile test in the Craven Stakes, run over the Guineas course and distance two weeks earlier.

"We have just started to increase the tempo," Bahhare's trainer, John Dunlop, said yesterday from his Arundel base. "I am delighted with the way he has come through the winter. He has strengthened through his back, loin and quarters and he is taking his work well. I would like to get a prep race into him — it wouldn't do him any harm to gain some more experience."

A half-brother to the 1995 champion miler, Bahri, Bahhare was assessed 2lb below Revoque in the International Classifications published last month. However, he is preferred to Robert Sangster's colt in 2,000 Guineas betting lists on the strength of his performance in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, where he mastered In Command, the subsequent winner of the Dewhurst Stakes, by 3½ lengths in course record time.

In the close season, Bahhare spent four days with veterinarians at the equine hospital in Dubai, emerging with a clean bill of health. Plans for him to spend the winter in Dubai were later revised. By contrast, Sahm, a stablemate of Bahhare, has been in the emirate for four months.

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER
2.10 Rhythm And Blues. 2.40 Indian Arrow. 3.10 Blazing Storm. 3.40 Normarange. 4.10 Mammy's Choice. 4.40 Mayb-Mayb.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

2.10 CROWBOROUGH NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,285: 2m 1f) (9 runners)

1 F0 APOLLONO 23 R Lee 5-11-2 W Marston
2 2 INTO THE WEB 11 Mrs M Jones 6-11-2 Derek Byrne
3 21/ MAY SUNSET 935 (G) C Egerton 7-11-2 J A McCarthy
4 -405 RHYTHM AND BLUES 13 R Buckler 7-11-2 B Powell
5 3 TONKA 21 D Gandolfo 5-11-2 A P McCoy
6 WELSH WIZZARD 746F J Best 5-11-2 Mr P O'Keeffe (7)
7 MY NAD KNOWS J Poulton 4-10-8 T J Murphy
8 2 ONE IN THE EYE 37 J Poulton 4-10-8 A Dicken
9 50 CONTRACT BRIDGE 29 P Murphy 4-10-3 W McFarland

9-4 Rhythm And Blues, 3-1 Into The Web, 7-2 Tonka, 4-1 May Sunset, 14-1 One In The Eye, 16-1 Apollono, Contract Bridge, 20-1 others.

2.40 PLUMPTON NOVICES CHASE
(£2,754: 2m) (6)

1 5/10 INDIAN ARROW 21 (D,BF,F,S) M Pipe 9-11-8 C Maude
2 3425 COURT MASTER 29 R Buckler 9-11-2 B Powell
3 -0PF EAU SO SLOE 18 J Poulton 8-11-2 A Dicken
4 0P/ FINNEGAIS 1460 P Butler 10-11-2 T J Murphy
5 8UPF PURBECK CAVALIER 11 (S) R Alner 8-11-2 W McFarland
6 R- ROADRUNNER 377P Mrs L Richards 7-11-2 M Richards

5-4 Indian Arrow, 6-4 Court Master, 4-1 Purbeck Cavalier, 20-1 Roadrunner, 25-1 Eau So Sloe, Finnegais.

3.10 WIVELSFIELD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,201: 3m 110yd) (7)

1 11P2 AINSI SOIT IL 9 (B,S) G McCourt 6-12-0 D Bridgwater
2 -252 DANCETILLYOUDROP 16 (G) P Nicholls 6-11-11 A P McCoy
3 F3PP MINOR KEY 16 J Jenkins 7-11-7 B Powell
4 6PP4 MISTER BLAKE 21 (D,F,G) R Lee 7-11-4 X Aizpuru (7)
5 -506 BLAZING STORM 21 (F) C Egerton 5-11-4 J A McCarthy
6 0P33 ROSKEEN BRIDGE 16 (BF) C Weedon 6-10-0 M Richards
7 U006 KYBO'S REVENGE 18 R Rowe 6-10-0 D O'Sullivan

9-4 Dancetillyoudrop, 7-2 Roskeen Bridge, 4-1 Ainsi Soit Il, 5-1 Blazing Storm, 7-1 Mister Blake, 8-1 Minor Key, 16-1 Kybo's Revenge

3.40 COOKSBRIDGE MAIDEN CHASE
(£2,541: 3m 1f 110yd) (9)

1 4-60 GLONTOURA 13 I Williams 9-11-5 B Powell
2 -P0P DEXTRA 27 S Earle 7-11-5 C Maude
3 2402 JAC DEL PRINCE 11 P Nicholls 7-11-5 A P McCoy
4 3-3 NORMARANGE 29 D Grissell 7-11-5 M Richards
5 21-4 PLUMBRIDGE 16 (G) P Cheesbrough 9-11-5 T Jenks
6 2-02 ROLLESTON BLADE 14 (F,S) J Best 10-11-5 Mr P O'Keeffe (7)
7 -P43 APATURA HATI 18 (B,S) R Alner 8-11-0 W McFarland
8 0BP FORTYTWO DEE 7 N Smith 7-11-0 T J Murphy
9 5-P NIKKIS PET 18 J Neville 10-11-0 W Marston

5-4 Normarange, 7-2 Jac Del Prince, 5-1 Apatura Hati, 6-1 Rolleston Blade, 15-1 Glontoura, Plumbridge, 20-1 others

4.10 CHAILEY HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,754: 2m 5f) (5)

1 23P0 BEAU BABILLARD 30 (B,CD,G,S) P Nicholls 10-12-0 A P McCoy
2 11P0 MAMMY'S CHOICE 20 (CD,S) R Alner 7-10-10 D Bridgwater
3 U34U WINSPIT 18 (C,F,S) R Alner 7-10-1 W McFarland
4 FPP2 GOLDEN OPAL 11 (C,G,S) R Buckler 12-10-0 B Powell
5 035U PAVLOVA 25 R Rowe 7-10-0 D O'Sullivan

8-4 Beau Babillard, 11-4 Mammy's Choice, 5-1 Winspit, 6-1 Pavlova, 7-1 Golden Opal

4.40 PORTSLADE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,942: 2m 4f) (7)

1 133- TONYS GIFT 211F (C,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-12-0 C Maude
2 131 BULA VOGUE 18 (C,S) R Rowe 7-11-9 D O'Sullivan
3 0003 ST VILLE 11 (D,F,G,S) R Buckler 11-11-2 B Powell
4 P6U5 KING'S GOLD 37 Mrs L Richards 7-10-5 M Richards
5 -51F MAYB-MAYB 10 (CD,BF,S) J Neville 7-10-4 A P McCoy
6 0410 SCRIPT 9 (BF,F,S) J Jenkins 6-10-2 T J Murphy
7 5P56 QUIET MOMENTS 31 P Murphy 4-10-0 W Marston

2-1 Bula Vogue, 5-2 Mayb-Mayb, 7-2 Tonys Gift, 8-1 St Ville, 12-1 King's Gold, Quiet Moments, 14-1 Script.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Neville, 7 winners from 15 runners, 46.7%; C Egerton, 12 from 29, 41.4%; M Pipe, 12 from 30, 40.0%; Mrs L Richards, 5 from 15, 33.3%; R Buckler, 4 from 15, 26.7%; R Alner, 8 from 41, 19.5%.

JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 14 winners from 50 rides, 28.0%; M Richards, 9 from 40, 22.5%; W McFarland, 7 from 42, 16.7%; D O'Sullivan, 12 from 82, 14.6%; T J Murphy, 3 from 21, 14.3%; W Marston, 3 from 23, 13.0%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Wetherby

Going: heavy

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, GODS SQUAD (R Supple, 4-1); 2, Good Vibes (4-5 fav); 3, Banker Count (33-1). ALSO RAN: 16 Lord Fortune (4th). 4 ran. 1¾l, 9l. J Mackie. Tote: £6.80; £1.20, £1.30, £10.70. DF: £5.10. Trio: £71.10. CSF: £8.08.

2.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, RIVER UNSHION (P Carberry, 4-11 fav); 2, Tico Gold (5-2); 3, Allcat (20-1). 3 ran. 13l, dist. J Howard Johnson. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.80. CSF: £1.52.

3.20 (3m 1f hdle) 1, YOUNG KENNY (R Supple, 13-8); 2, Smart Approach (8-1); 3, Military Academy (11-10 fav). ALSO RAN: 7 Share Options (4th). 4 ran. 16l, nk. P Beaumont. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £2.30. DF: £9.50. CSF: £13.49.

3.50 (2m ch) 1, POLITICAL TOWER (A Dobbin, 6-5 fav); 2, Regal Romper (2-1); 3, Cross Cannon (11-4). 3 ran. 6l, 13l. R Nixon. Tote: £2.10. DF: £1.10. CSF: £3.37.

4.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, COVERDALE LANE (R Guest, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Gold Pigeon (8-1); 3, Garbo's Boy (12-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 jt-fav D'Arblay Street (4th). 9 ran. 2½l, dis. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £4.90; £1.90, £1.20, £4.90. DF: £12.00. Trio: £136.70. CSF: £25.04. Tricast: £230.35.

4.50 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, INTO THE WEST (R Guest, 11-2); 2, Enchanted Cottage (11-8 fav); 3, Bassenhally (9-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Dont Forget Curtis (4th). 7 ran. NR: Eternal City, Mock Trial. 4l, dis. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £5.20; £2.40, £1.10. DF: £7.00. Trio: £19.70. CSF: £13.31. Tricast: £62.34.

Placepot: £32.70. Quadpot: £15.00.

Ludlow

Going: good

2.10 (2m hdle) 1, GREEN GREEN DESERT (D Bridgwater, 9-1); 2, High In The Clouds (S Wynne, 6-5 fav); 3, Fasil (T Jenks, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Moonax (6th), 5 Midnight Legend (4th), 16 Flond, 50 Blaze Of Song, Churchworth, Formidable Partner (5th), Toraja, 66 Fencer's Quest, Slippery Fin, 100 Admiral Bruny, Gesway, Glen Garnock, Noblesse Oblige, Safecracker, Sharp Command. 18 ran. 3½l, sh hd, 5l, 7l, 3l. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £9.70; £2.20, £1.10, £11.90. DF: £9.30. Trio: £182.90. CSF: £18.34.

2.40 (2m 4f ch) 1, TELLICHERRY (J Culloty, 11-8 fav); 2, Coole Hill (R Johnson, 7-4); 3, Jasilu (S McNeill, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 25 Eleanora Muse (f), Summer Haven, 33 Country Town (4th), Rent Day (6th), 66 Daring Hen (pu), Lambrini (5th), Tinker's Cuss (pu). 10 ran. Nk, 13l, 15l, hd, dist. Miss H Knight at Wantage. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £1.50, £1.40. DF: £3.10. Trio: £2.90. CSF: £3.94.

3.10 (3m ch) 1, RECTORY GARDEN (A Thornton, 11-8 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Romany Creek (A P McCoy, 5-2); 3, Dont Tell The Wife (J Culloty, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Act Of Parliament (5th), 9 Alice Smith (6th), 20 Royal Saxon (4th). 6 ran. 1½l, 7l, 12l, 21l, 3l. T Forster at Downton. Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £2.20. DF: £3.30. CSF: £4.92.

3.40 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, JACKSON FLINT (X Aizpuru, 13-2); 2, Operetto (J R Kavanagh, 13-2); 3, First Crack (S Wynne, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 jt-fav Desert Force, Miss Marigold, 13-2 Fawley Flyer (4th), 14 Star Performer (6th), Viscount Tully, 16 Better Bythe Glass, Hoodwinker (pu), 20 Blatant Outburst (5th), Deming Bridge, 25 Bossymoss, Monks Jay (pu), 50 Deep Isle (pu). 15 ran. 2½l, 3l, 2½l, 1¾l, 1½l. T Thomson Jones at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £9.00; £3.20, £2.40, £1.80. DF: £52.70. Trio: £102.20. CSF: £44.82. Tricast: £291.78.

4.10 (3m ch) 1, CAPE COTTAGE (Mr A Phillips, 7-2); 2, Fox Pointer (Mr J Jukes, 5-2); 3, Inch Maid (Miss H Brookshaw, 10-11 fav). ALSO RAN: 14 Star Oats (pu), 25 King Of Shadows (pu), 66 J B Lad (4th), Kingfisher Bay (6th), Welsh Lightning (5th). 8 ran. 3l, ¾l, dist, dist, sh hd. D Caro at Malmesbury. Tote: £5.30; £1.10, £1.60, £1.10. DF: £11.60. CSF: £12.23.

4.40 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, IONIO (J R Kavanagh, 5-2); 2, Cherokee Chief (M Richards, 2-1 fav); 3, Ezanak (J Culloty, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Brookhampton Lane (4th), 10 Arioso, 12 Carlingford Gale (5th), 25 Kylami (f), South West Express, 33 Mister Goodguy, 50 High Handed (6th), 66 Roc Age, 100 A Badge Too Far (pu), Brownscroft, Lady Of Mine, One More Rupee (pu), Red Lane, Seven Four Seven. 17 ran. NR: Scenic Waters. 1¾l, 24l, 1¼l, 19l, ¾l. Mrs V Ward at Grantham. Tote: £3.20; £1.40, £1.70, £1.30. DF: £4.80. Trio: £5.90. CSF: £7.76.

5.10 (2m flat race) 1, BENVENUTO (S McNeill, 9-2); 2, Good Lord Murphy (L Harvey, 8-1); 3, Ea Go (H Bastiman, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Ask In Time, 6 Flecot (6th), 10 Miss Match (5th), 20 Boundtohonour, Strong Magic, 33 Count Karmuski (4th), Ginger Watt, 50 Cariboo, Celtic Carrol, Gallant Taffy, Haberdasher, Oriental Boy, Two Lords, 66 Ta-Ra-Abit, 100 Miss Mighty. 18 ran. 10l, ½l, 6l, 4l, 9l. K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £5.90; £2.00, £3.40, £2.20. DF: £58.40. Trio: £13.60. CSF: £41.35.

Jackpot: £33,207.60.

Placepot: £5.50. Quadpot: £2.80.

Huntingdon

Going: good to soft, soft in home straight

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Mellow Master (R Farrant, 20-1); 2, Halham Tarn (12-1); 3, Battleship Bruce (11-2). Belle Sedona 13-8 fav (pu). 15 ran. NR: Daydream Believer. 1½l, 1½l. N Walker. Tote: £38.90; £8.30, £3.10, £2.30. DF: £157.80. Trio: not won (pool of £287.56 carried forward to 3.30 at Newbury today). CSF: £214.35. No bid.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, Mr Boston (Mr S Swiers, 8-11 fav); 2, Granville Guest (11-1); 3, Colonial Kelly (12-1). 8 ran. 5l, 12l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £3.10, £1.70. DF: £8.10. CSF: £10.08.

3.00 (3m ch) 1, Cariboo Gold (J Osborne, 10-11 fav); 2, Bolshie Baron (14-1); 3, Blazer Moniere (7-1). 7 ran. 3l, 1½l. K Bailey. Tote: £1.80; £1.40, £4.40. DF: £10.40. CSF: £13.24.

3.30 (3m 2f hdle) 1, Flying Gunner (R Massey, Evens fav); 2, Banny Hill Lad (25-1); 3, Saccolino (7-2). 15 ran. Hd, 3½l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £5.00, £1.40. DF: £29.50. Trio: £39.30. CSF: £38.10.

4.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Teinein (N Williamson, 6-5); 2, High Learie (7-1); 3, Arfer Mole (11-10 fav). 6 ran. 1¾l, dist. Capt T Forster. Tote: £1.80; £1.40, £1.70. DF: £8.90. CSF: £8.76.

4.30 (3m ch) 1, Bitofamixup (Mr P Hacking, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Ask Antony (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Broad Steane (7-2 jt-fav). 13 ran. NR: Amazon Lily, Saint Bene't. 1¼l, 15l. M Roberts. Tote: £4.00; £2.50, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £9.80. Trio: £5.60. CSF: £12.51.

5.00 (3m 2f hdle) 1, Red Lighter (J Osborne, 12-1); 2, Ehtefaal (9-2); 3, Tilty (9-1). Dockmaster 4-1 fav. 12 ran. NR: Linkside, What Jim Wants. 6l, 3½l. J Old. Tote: £20.70; £3.30, £1.50, £3.10. DF: £29.50. Trio: £180.90. CSF: £84.84. Tricast: £482.23.

Placepot: £67.50. Quadpot: £4.90.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.25 (1m 4f) 1, As-Is (K Sked, 5-2); 2, State Of Gold (11-4); 3, Neon Deion (20-1). Leg Beforum 15-8 fav. 6 ran. 2l, 5l. M Johnston. Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £1.40. DF: £3.00. CSF: £9.05.

2.55 (5f) 1, Ramsey Hope (K Fallon, 10-1); 2, Lord Sky (11-2); 3, Sir Tasker (13-2). Bowcliffe Grange 11-4 fav. 7 ran. 1½l, sh hd. C Fairhurst. Tote: £12.50; £3.40, £1.80. DF: £15.00. CSF: £55.20. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

3.25 (7f) 1, Barbason (Candy Morris, 11-2); 2, Dawalib (7-4 fav); 3, Anita's Contessa (8-1). 8 ran. NR: Island Prince. 1½l, nk. G L Moore. Tote: £7.00; £2.00, £1.50, £2.10. DF: £7.00. Trio: £27.50. CSF: £14.93. Tricast: £72.91.

3.55 (1m 2f) 1, Running Stag (A Clark, 8-11 fav); 2, Around Fore Alliss (16-1); 3, Solar Dawn (14-1). 6 ran. 7l, 2l. P Mitchell. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £3.10. DF: £8.20. CSF: £15.32.

4.25 (1m) 1, Soojama (S Drowne, 9-4 fav); 2, High Five (11-2); 3, Matthias Mystique (4-1). 8 ran. NR: Lord Ellangowan. 1l, 6l. R Flower. Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £2.50. DF: £7.90. CSF: £13.50.

4.55 (1m) 1, Eastleigh (J Quinn, 16-1); 2, Bagshot (11-4); 3, Tugamala (9-4 fav). 8 ran. NR: Amnesty Bay. 4l, 3½l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £12.70; £3.20, £7.10, £2.50. DF: £13.40. Trio: £23.10. CSF: £55.08. Tricast: £127.57.

Placepot: £93.90. Quadpot: £8.40.

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SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.15 Maradi. 2.45 El Nido. 3.15 Bold Frontier. 3.45 Carburton. 4.15 Sandmoor Denim. 4.45 Mr Moriarty.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.15 SKEGBY MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,371: 1m 4f) (7 runners)

1 00-6 APICULATE 14 S Bowring 9-0 S Webster 1
2 0-55 GOOD DAY 4 C Thornton 9-0 D McKeown 4
3 330- MARADI 141 M Bell 9-0 R Mullen (5) 7
4 4-0 SIR ALIDAF 16 D O'Neill 9-0 J Bramhill (5) 6
5 KISSANDY Mrs V Aconley 8-9 M Deering 5
6 402- TRACKS OF MY TEARS 137 W G M Turner 8-9 T Sprake 3
7 00-5 WOODLAND NYMPH 16 D Murray Smith 8-9 D R McCabe 2

6-4 Maradi, 4-1 Tracks Of My Tears, 9-2 Good Day, 6-1 Woodland Nymph, 8-1 Apiculate, 12-1 Kissandy, 20-1 Sir Alidaf.

2.45 NORMANTON CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,788: 1m 6f) (9)

1 1450 UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA 11 (C,G) M Bielby 5-8-12 D Sweeney (5) 9
2 1340 EL NIDO 14 (CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 9-8-11 K Fallon 1
3 300- ANISTOP 284 (C,G) J Eyre 5-8-10 T Williams 8
4 GRAND CRU 10J Mrs M Reveley 6-8-10 A Culhane 3
5 /6 WORLD WITHOUT END 14 (B,S) M Sowersby 8-8-10 P Fessey (5) 7
6 /00- CULRAIN 6J T Caldwell 6-8-8 W Ryan 4
7 06-0 SHIP'S DANCER 21 (B) E Incisa 4-8-2 Kim Tinkler 6
8 I DON'T THINK SO 246J T Hind 6-8-1 Darren Moffatt (3) 5
9 00-6 DUTCH DYANE 48 G Enright 4-7-12 A Daly (5) 2

6-4 El Nido, 4-1 Grand Cru, 5-1 Undawaterscubadiva, 11-2 Anistop, 14-1 Ship's Dancer, 20-1 others

3.15 MARKHAM MOOR HANDICAP
(£5,247: 6f) (13)

1 342- STOPPES BROW 83 (V,D,F,S) G L Moore 5-9-12 G Duffield 13
2 015- CRETAN GIFT 83 (V,CD,F,G) N Littmoden 6-9-9 T McLaughlin 12
3 01-2 BOLD EFFORT 16 (V,D,F,S) K Cunningham-Brown 5-9-9 W Ryan 6
4 U26- SAILORMAITE 83 (CD,G,S) S Bowring 6-9-4 S Webster 1
5 -010 PRIMA SILK 16 (CD,F,S) M Ryan 6-8-12 A Clark 10
6 -024 BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY 8 (CD,F,G,S) D Shaw 7-8-10 C Teague (3) 7
7 0012 ELTON LEDGER 11 (V,CD,BF,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-8-8 S Sanders 9
8 -650 MR FROSTY 17 (CD,G) W Jarvis 5-8-6 G Carter 4
9 330- DAAWE 112 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs V Aconley 6-8-3 M Deering 8
10 41-6 MASTER OF PASSION 51 (D,BF,F,G,S) J Eustace 8-8-3 Martin Dwyer (3) 5
11 -405 CHADWELL HALL 9 (CD,F,G,S) S Bowring 6-8-3 A Daly (5) 11
12 -325 NAUGHTY PISTOL 16 (V,CD,F,G) P Evans 5-7-13 D Wright 3
13 -523 BOLD FRONTIER 7 (B,C,BF,G) K Ivory 5-7-10 J Quinn 2

4-1 Stoppes Brow, 5-1 Cretan Gift, 6-1 Bold Effort, 7-1 Sailormaite, 8-1 Elton Ledger, Broadstairs Beauty 10-1 others

3.45 RETFORD HANDICAP (£3,566: 1m) (14)

1 1110 KINGCHIP BOY 4 (B,CD,F,G) M Ryan 8-10-0 A Clark 5
2 3F-1 KNOTTY HILL 21 (C,G) R Craggs 5-9-11 D Holland 13
3 000- CARBURTON 83 (F,S) J Glover 4-9-9 G Carter 6
4 135- SUEZ TORNADO 205 (D,G) E Alston 4-9-9 K Fallon 9
5 000- JOHNNIE THE JOKER 104 (C,F,G) J Leigh 6-9-7 P Fessey (5) 3
6 21-0 MAZUREK 4 (D,G) M Meagher 4-9-5 J Quinn 14
7 1222 RAMBO WALTZER 4 (CD,F,S) D Nicholls 5-9-4 Iona Wands (7) 8
8 1415 ROYAL CARLTON 16 (D,G) G L Moore 5-9-3 S Whitworth 12
9 -005 TEA PARTY 8 (D,G) K Cunningham-Brown 4-9-3 W Ryan 2
10 -612 CHADLEIGH LANE 42 (CD,BF,G) A Mulholland 5-8-13 D McKeown 4
11 0352 GENUINE JOHN 8 J Parkes 4-8-11 J Bramhill (5) 11
12 000- ROAR ON TOUR 87 (V,CD,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-8-6 A Culhane 10
13 60-6 KARINSKA 4 (CD,F,G) M Chapman 7-8-4 D R McCabe 1
14 6201 PLEASURE TRICK 4 (B,CD,F,G) E Incisa 6-8-3 (6ex) Kim Tinkler 7

7-2 Knotty Hill, 5-1 Royal Carlton, 6-1 Pleasure Trick, Rambo Waltzer, 8-1 Chadleigh Lane, Kingchip Boy, 12-1 Genuine John, 14-1 others

4.15 RUFFORD SELLING STAKES (£3,095: 1m) (7)

1 0-11 SARASI 14 (CD,G) M Camacho 5-9-4 J Quinn 2
2 0-50 ALLEZ CYRANO 16 (F,G,S) O O'Neill 6-8-12 P Roberts (5) 7
3 0063 DESERT INVADER 11 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 6-8-12 A Culhane 3
4 000- FLAG FEN 154 (G,S) J Parkes 6-8-12 J Bramhill (5) 5
5 0006 MAJOR MOUSE 14 (CD,F,G) W Haigh 9-8-12 R Lappin 1
6 0053 NORTHERN FAN 14 (D,G) N Tinkler 5-8-12 D McKeown 4
7 3332 SANDMOOR DENIM 21 (CD,BF,F,G,S) S Bowring 10-8-12 A Daly (5) 6

3-1 Sarasi, 7-2 Sandmoor Denim, 9-2 Northern Fan, 5-1 Major Mouse, 6-1 Flag Fen, 7-1 Desert Invader, 8-1 Allez Cyrano

4.45 TUXFORD HANDICAP (£2,433: 1m 4f) (14)

1 21U- COMPASS POINTER 79 (C,G) J Eustace 4-9-11 Martin Dwyer (3) 5
2 2223 MAFTUN 18 (D,BF,F) G Moore 5-9-3 D Holland 4
3 0-41 KALAMATA 18 (CD,G) J Glover 5-8-13 N Day 1
4 00-6 NO SUBMISSION 11 (B,C,G,S) D Chapman 11-8-11 A Culhane 7
5 05-4 ANOTHER QUARTER 14 (CD) M Chapman 4-8-10 D McCabe 3
6 5021 CAROL AGAIN 11 (CD,G) N Bycroft 5-8-7 (5ex) J Quinn 12
7 -225 RAINDEER QUEST 16 (C,F,G) J Eyre 5-8-5 S Buckley (7) 13
8 -002 AFRICAN-PARD 11 D Haydn Jones 5-8-3 C Rutter 9
9 3130 KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 14 (CD,F,G) J Parkes 7-7-11 J Bramhill (5) 10
10 1004 ROYAL ACCLAIM 4 (V,C,F,G,S) C Jackson 12-7-10 Dale Gibson 2
11 000- INOVAR 242 (CD,G) C Booth 7-7-10 N Kennedy 6
12 500- ROYRACE 9J (B) W Brisbourne 5-7-10 R Mullen (5) 8
13 00-3 MR MORIARTY 17J (CD,BF,G) S Bowring 6-7-10 P Fessey (5) 11
14 50/ NORTHERN CHARMER 325J E Alston 5-7-10 J Fowle (7) 14

11-4 Carol Again, 9-2 Kalamata, 7-1 Maftun, 8-1 African-Pard, 10-1 Another Quarter, Compass Pointer, Raindeer Quest, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Holland, 21 winners from 101 runners, 20.8%; K Fallon, 19 from 113, 16.8%; N Day, 3 from 23, 13%; D McKeown, 35 from 292, 12.0%; C Teague, 23 from 205, 11.2%; G Duffield, 23 from 208, 11.1%.

JOCKEYS: R Lappin, 10 winners from 90 rides, 11.1%; P Roberts, 5 from 45, 11.1%; S Drowne, 11 from 102, 10.8%; D R McCabe, 20 from 200, 10.0%. Only qualifiers.

KELSO

THUNDERER
2.20 Call Me Black. 2.50 Cry Baby. 3.20 Seeking Gold. 3.50 Marello. 4.20 Jigtime. 4.50 Palacegate King.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
3.50 MARELLO.

Carl Evans: 4.20 Howayman.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

2.20 CYRIL ALEXANDER MEMORIAL MAIDEN CHASE
(£3,599: 3m 1f) (11 runners)

1 0FF6 ARISTODEMUS 14 Mrs L Marshall 8-11-5 K Johnson —
2 -063 DESPERATE DAYS 17 F Kirby 8-11-5 W Dwan 90
3 03F5 FINE TUNE 6 Mrs S Bradburne 7-11-5 M Foster 85
4 /40 KALAJO 14 (F) B Mactaggart 7-11-5 B Storey 86
5 -PPP LYFORD CAY 13 J Bewley 7-11-5 S Melrose (7) —
6 SAFETY FACTOR H Johnson 9-11-5 A S Smith —
7 240- TWO FOR ONE 420 (G) Miss L Russell 8-11-5 T Reed 80
8 0-34 CALL ME BLACK 24 M Hammond 8-11-0 R Garritty [illegible]
9 6/P JUST EVE 17 Mrs D Thomson 10-11-0 G Cahill —
10 -503 MILLIES IMAGE 28 F Murtagh 6-11-0 A Dobbin —
11 30 MISS COLETTE 80 (G) Mrs D Thomson 9-11-0 D Parker —

3-1 Call Me Black, 7-2 Safety Factor, 5-1 Fine Tune, 5-1 Two For One, 8-1 Millies Image, Kalajo, 10-1 others.

2.50 PENNY FARTHING RESTAURANT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,749: 2m 110yd) (7)

1 001 CRY BABY 20 (D,S) A Whillans 11-4 S Taylor (5) 96
2 2 CLASH OF SWORDS 20 P Calver 10-12 L Wyer [illegible]
3 P JUNGLE FRESH 14 Mrs D Thomson 10-12 D Parker —
4 05 KNAVE 16 P Monteith 10-12 A Dobbin 87
5 P PRINCIPAL BOY 28 T Etherington 10-12 R Rourke —
6 ANIKA'S GEM Mrs S Bradburne 10-7 M Foster —
7 0 POLITICAL MANDATE 14 R Nixon 10-7 B Storey —

5-4 Clash Of Swords, 6-4 Cry Baby, 8-1 Knave, 12-1 Principal Boy, 16-1 Anika's Gem, 20-1 Political Mandate, 25-1 Jungle Fresh.

3.20 M & J BALLANTYNE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,118: 3m 4f) (8)

1 -P0P WHAAT FETTLE 20 (CD,F,G,S) G Richards 12-12-0 A Ogden (7) 98
2 604U CEILIDH BOY 13 (V,CD,F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 11-11-11 R Hale (5) 97
3 -10P PINK GIN 13 (C,F,G,S) M Hammond 10-11-2 C Bonner (3) 98
4 -152 HEAVENLY CITIZEN 20 (F,G,S) J Gledson 9-10-0 P Craggs 96
5 2123 SEEKING GOLD 22 (C,F,G) J Barclay 8-10-0 Miss P Robson (5) 93
6 /31 JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN 17 (S) Mrs J Storey 10-10-0 C Storey (5) [illegible]
7 0312 OFF THE BRU 22 (C,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 12-10-0 M Bradburne (7) 86
8 3466 WHITE DIAMOND 43 (F,S) Miss L Russell 9-10-0 Mr D Reid (7) 88

3-1 Pink Gin, 4-1 Judicious Captain, 9-2 Off The Bru, 5-1 Heavenly Citizen, 6-1 Seeking Gold, 7-1 Ceilidh boy, 10-1 others.

3.50 HENNESSY COGNAC SPECIAL SERIES FINAL NOVICES HURDLE (£13,745: 2m 2f) (8)

1 112P ASK THE BUTLER 50 (G) C Roche (Ire) 6-11-10 R Hughes 88
2 -111 BRAMBLES WAY 30 (B,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-10 Mr S Swiers 79
3 2122 DANA POINT 14 (C,G) Mrs S Smith 5-11-3 R Guest 93
4 0210 MAPLE BAY 22 (F) B Ellison 8-11-3 A Dobbin 85
5 115 MISTER ROSS 23 (C,F,G) H Johnson 7-11-3 P Carberry 80
6 0-33 NICK ROSS 80 R Brewis 6-11-3 A S Smith 54
7 3101 STAR SELECTION 17 (S) J Mackie 6-11-3 E Husband 88
8 -111 MARELLO 13 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-12 P Niven [illegible]

1-2 Marello, 5-1 Dana Point, 6-1 Ask The Butler, 10-1 Mister Ross, Brambles Way, 14-1 Star Selection, 20-1 others.

4.20 ALBA COUNTRY FOODS HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,982: 3m 1f) (8)

1 PP-5 LITTLE GENERAL 33P (D,F) Mrs D McCormack 14-12-12 T Scott (7) —
2 414- ROYAL JESTER 19P (CD,F,G,S) C Storey 13-12-12 C Storey (5) 93
3 41-42 FORDSTOWN 13P (G,S) J Alexander 8-12-8 J Alexander (7) 82
4 FP-P LITTLE WENLOCK 16 (F,S) Mrs D Gibson 13-12-8 Mrs V Jackson (5) 92
5 1F-1 HOWAYMAN 16 (G,S) K Anderson 7-12-5 A Parker (7) 96
6 332- SAVOY 315 (G) G Richards 10-12-5 A Ogden (7) [illegible]
7 11- JIGTIME 303 (CD,G,S) J Hughes 8-12-0 M Bradburne (7) —
8 1/F BUCK'S DELIGHT 6P (S) Mrs R Arthur 9-11-12 C Bonner (3) —

6-4 Jigtime, 7-2 Savoy, 9-2 Royal Jester, 6-1 Howayman, 10-1 Little Wenlock, 12-1 Buck's Delight, 16-1 others

4.50 SHIP HOTEL EYEMOUTH HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,892: 2m 2f) (9)

1 12-0 ARAGON AYR 42 (CD,G,S) P Monteith 9-12-0 C McCormack (7) 93
2 4603 PALACEGATE KING 20 (C,BF,S) A Whillans 8-11-12 S Taylor (5) 92
3 P-41 INGLETONIAN 22 (C,G,S) B Mactaggart 8-11-6 B Storey [illegible]
4 0065 ELATION 14 (F,G) G Richards 5-11-3 A Dobbin 90
5 2613 FIELD OF VISION 107 (BF,F,G) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-0 J Supple 90
6 5045 COMMON SOUND 17 (S) J Barclay 6-10-13 P Niven 98
7 / FESTIVAL FANCY 1021P (C,G,S) B Mactaggart 10-10-3 G Lee (3) —
8 /32 PARIAH 20 (BF,S) M Todhunter 8-10-3 P Carberry 94
9 5533 IFALLELSEFAILS 63 (F) L Lungo 9-10-0 R Supple 95

3-1 Palacegate King, 7-2 Pariah, 4-1 Ingletonian, 7-1 Field Of Vision, 8-1 Elation, Aragon Ayr, Ifallelsefails, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Jane Storey, 6 winners from 15 runners, 40.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 35 from 121, 28.9%; Mrs J Goodfellow, 13 from 51, 25.5%; M Hammond, 23 from 103, 22.3%; G Richards, 22 from 104, 21.2%; H Johnson, 15 from 75, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 47 winners from 132 rides, 35.6%; Mr C Storey, 6 from 18, 33.3%; R Garritty, 10 from 46, 21.7%; P Carberry, 7 from 34, 20.6%; A Dobbin, 28 from 145, 19.3%; L Wyer, 12 from 75, 16.0%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Newbury: 2.30 Penncaler. 3.30 Monks Soham. 4.00 Mediane. Southwell: 4.45 Royrace

NEWBURY

THUNDERER
2.00 Get Real
2.30 Top Javelin
3.00 High Altitude
3.30 THE TOISEACH (nap)
4.00 Holland House
4.30 Infamous
5.00 Flaxley Wood
Carl Evans 4.00 Miss Millbrook.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robeson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 ARDINGTON NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£4,0698: 2m 110yd) (17 runners)

101 51-213 SPLENDID THYNE 14 (S) (D J Galvanoni) T Casey 5-11-4 J Osborne 95
102 CATHERINE'S WAY (R Cavill) A Turnell 5-11-0 L Harvey —
103 0-022 CLINTON 14 (BF) (E Thomas) K Bailey 6-11-0 C O'Dwyer 97
104 35-P CRAMPSCASTLE 32 (M And G Worcester) N Chance 7-11-0 P Ryan (7) —
105 13-5 FRYS NO FOOL 16 (S) (Frys No Fool Partnership) J Old 7-11-0 C Llewellyn 88
106 GEORGETOWN (Paralix Tapes & Conversions Ltd) J Gifford 6-11-0 P Hide —
107 42-6 GET REAL 20 (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 6-11-0 N Williamson [illegible]
108 5 HULALEA 25 (M Pinto) Miss S Edwards 5-11-0 G Tormey —
109 0- MARCHIES MAGIC 455 (The Marchiona Partnership) J Gifford 7-11-0 L Aspell (3) —
110 4 MILITARY LAW 100 (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) Miss H Knight 6-11-0 J Culloty —
111 2-00 MOON DEVIL 20 (Sir Colin Southgate) Mark Campion 7-11-0 J Railton —
112 NEWS FLASH (P Sims) A Turnell 5-11-0 S McNeill —
113 PEERS FOLLY (Lord Donoughue) Miss H Knight 7-11-0 J F Titley —
114 PRESTIGIOUS MAN (The Drinks All Round Partnership) J Jenkins 6-11-0 N T Egan (7) —
115 0/ RELKANDER 688 (Mrs M Buckley) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0 R Farrant —
116 00-3 STRONG TEL 93 (T Neill) M Pipe 7-11-0 D Walsh —
117 50 WEST BAY BREEZE 88 (Satsumas Fish Merchants & Transporters) R Buckler 5-10-9 P Holley —

BETTING: 3-1 Splendid Thyne, 5-1 Get Real, 6-1 Clinton, 7-1 Strong Tel, 10-1 Frys No Fool, Georgetown, 12-1 Peers Folly, 14-1 others.

1996: MONICASMAN 6-11-4 A P McCoy (13-8 fav) A Jarvis 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPLENDID THYNE 9l 3rd of 11 to Queen Of Spades in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). CLINTON 5l 2nd of 8 to Peace Lord in novice hurdle at Fakenham (2m 4f, good). FRYS NO FOOL beat MOON DEVIL (4lb better off) head in 18-runner national hunt flat race at Towcester (2m, good to soft) Dec 95.
GET REAL 13l 2nd of 14 to French Holly in national hunt flat race over course and distance (heavy) on penultimate start, Mar 96.
MILITARY LAW 8¼l 4th of 20 to Ounu Eagle in national hunt flat race at Kempton (2m, good to soft). STRONG TEL 14½l 3rd of 15 to Lady Rebecca in national hunt flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft).
Selection: SPLENDID THYNE

2.30 HAMPSHIRE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,852: 3m) (9 runners)

201 20PB-2U LOTTERY TICKET 7 (S) (A Parker) T George 8-11-10 C O'Dwyer 90
202 215240 KENDAL CAVALIER 27 (S) (M Wingfield Digby) G Balding 7-11-1 B Fenton 91
203 20441F SOPHIE MAY 13 (F,S) (B) (J Daniels) L Montague Hall 6-10-12 J F Titley [illegible]
204 P33111 CARDINAL RULE 11 (G,S) (P Burch) Miss V Williams 8-10-12 (6ex) N Williamson 96
205 PP-6144 TOP JAVALIN 27 (S) (Mrs V Thum) N Hawke 10-10-11 R Greene 89
206 036-F40 PENNCALER 27 (B) (Mrs A Taylor) P Hobbs 7-10-9 C Llewellyn —
207 U63-542 MAJORS LEGACY 70 (Mrs G Leigh) T Forster 8-10-6 A Thornton 92
208 F3P24F COUNTRY KEEPER 16 (B Ryall) B Ryall 9-10-0 N Mann 93
209 000-656 PURBECK RAMBLER 32 (Miss M Lane) G Balding 6-10-0 J R Kavanagh —

Long handicap: Country Keeper 9-12, Purbeck Rambler 9-2

BETTING: 9-4 Cardinal Rule, 4-1 Lottery Ticket, 5-1 Kendal Cavalier, Sophie May, 7-1 Top Javalin, 8-1 Penncaler, 14-1 others

1996: DANGER BABY 6-10-13 P Holley (8-1) D Williams 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

LOTTERY TICKET best effort 2½l 2nd of 7 to Goldenswift in handicap chase at Newbury (3m, good) on penultimate start. KENDAL CAVALIER best effort 4l 2nd of 5 to Mariners Mirror in novice chase at Lingfield (3m, good to soft) Dec 96. SOPHIE MAY best effort beat Scoresheet 4l in 14-runner novice handicap chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. CARDINAL RULE beat Super Ritchart 13l in 15-runner novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, soft). TOP JAVALIN beat Big Strand ½l in 14-runner amateur riders' handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, soft) Dec 96
Selection: SOPHIE MAY

3.00 GEOFFREY GILBEY HANDICAP CHASE (£4,429: 2m 1f) (4 runners)

301 13-1211 MISTER ODDY 14 (CD,G,S) (Mrs R Hall) J King 11-11-13 D Fortt (3) [illegible]
302 1-5321P JAMES THE FIRST 21 (D,F,G,S) (Sales Plant Protection) P Nicholls 9-11-1 P Hide 89
303 11P/3-F2 HIGH ALLTITUDE 21 (G,S) (F Sainsbury) M Heaton-Ellis 9-10-0 D Gallagher 98
304 PF-5022 KINGS CHERRY 22 (S) (T Swaffield) J Old 9-10-0 C Llewellyn 92

Long handicap: High Alltitude 9-13, Kings Cherry 9-13.

BETTING: Evens Mister Oddy, 9-4 High Alltitude, 4-1 James The First, 6-1 Kings Cherry

1996: MISTER ODDY 10-11-4 J Culloty (2-1 fav) J King 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

MISTER ODDY beat Lord Dorcet 13l in 4-runner handicap chase at Sandown (2m, good). Previously beat HIGH ALLTITUDE (9lb better off) 1¾l in 7-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good) with JAMES THE FIRST (8lb better off) pulled up.
JAMES THE FIRST beat Aal El Aal 22l in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, soft). HIGH ALLTITUDE 22l 3rd of 8 to Northern Saddler in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, soft) Nov 95. KINGS CHERRY 5l 2nd of 7 to Distinctive in handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: HIGH ALLTITUDE (nap)

3.30 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION SERIES HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,288: 2m 5f) (12 runners)

401 0-13162 LAKE KARIBA 74 (BF,G,S) (Lake Kariba Partnership) P Nicholls 6-11-13 L Cummins (7) 90
402 2462P-4 URON V 22 (F,G,S) (Mrs E Bousquet-Payne) C Weld 11-11-8 K Gaule 92
403 01-330 THE TOISEACH 21 (CD,S) (T & J Vestey) J Fanshawe 6-11-3 J Osborne 90
404 0-4PPF6 KING'S CROSS 13 (S) (N Harvey) A J Wilson 8-11-3 A Thornton 89
405 1-32323 LORD MCMURROUGH 14 (S) (J Neville) J Neville 7-11-2 R Farrant 94
406 05-2421 DENHAM HILL 11 (S) (J Brown) C Mann 6-11-2 (6ex) J Railton 91
407 1/PP ARABIAN SULTAN 11 (D,F,G) (Mrs E Harris) M Pipe 10-11-0 Jamie Evans —
408 0/012-P THE MEXICANS GONE 13 (S) (M Clarke) D Geraghty 9-10-11 V Slattery 95
409 9F4601 OATIS ROSE 14 (CD,G,S) (Mrs J Redvers) M Sheppard 7-10-10 N Williamson 93
410 50162-0 CARMEL'S JOY 74 (S) (Mrs A Gamble) T George 8-10-9 R Johnson 89
411 0/32-65 MONKS SOHAM 9 (B) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 9-10-7 B Fenton 85
412 100-4P5 HOODED HAWK 13 (G) (C Hamer) N Henderson 6-10-6 J R Kavanagh [illegible]

BETTING: 5-2 Denham Hill, 5-1 Oatis Rose, 6-1 Lake Kariba, 7-1 The Toiseach, 8-1 Lord McMurrough, Uron V, 12-1 Monks Soham, 14-1 others.

1996: YES MAN 7-10-8 J F Titley (11-2) Miss H Knight 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

LAKE KARIBA best effort beat Devon Peasant 15l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy) Nov 96. THE TOISEACH best effort 7l 3rd of 5 to Tim in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to soft) Nov 96. LORD MCMURROUGH best effort 2l 2nd of 4 to Reaganesque in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good to firm) on penultimate start. DENHAM HILL beat Brackenheath 14l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft)
THE MEXICANS GONE best effort 1¾l 2nd of 16 to Little Gunner in novice hurdle at Bangor (3m, soft) on penultimate start, May 96. OATIS ROSE beat Danes Cavalier short-head in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good).
Selection: LORD MCMURROUGH

4.00 PETER HAMER MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,576: 3m) (6 runners)

501 11-S HOLLAND HOUSE 16 (D,BF,F,G,S) (E Knight) P Cheesbrough 11-12-5 C Vigors (5) [illegible]
502 21F-1 MISS MILLBROOK 18 (D,G,S) (D Goldsworthy) D Goldsworthy 9-12-0 E Williams (7) 81
503 22P- CLOBRACKEN LAD 20P (F,G) (T Swaffield) Mrs J Swaffield 9-11-9 G Baines (7) 64
504 30P/0-P2 MEDIANE 7 (V,G,S) (Miss A Wilson) Miss A Wilson 12-11-9 Simon Andrews (3) 82
505 U/ OTTER RIVER 660 (O Carter) O Carter 8-11-9 E James (7) —
506 63-2 PRINCIPLE MUSIC 21 (G) (N Shutts) Mrs P Grainger 9-11-9 Mr A Phillips (7) 89

BETTING: 8-11 Holland House, 7-2 Miss Millbrook, 6-1 Clobracken Lad, 12-1 Principle Music, 16-1 Otter River, Mediane.

1996: COLONIAL KELLY 8-11-6 Mr P Hacking (11-8 fav) Mrs D Grissell 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

HOLLAND HOUSE best effort beat Hermes Harvest 7l in 14-runner hunter chase at Cheltenham (4m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start, Apr 96. MISS MILLBROOK beat Cape Cottage 25l in 18-runner hunter chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). CLOBRACKEN LAD 1¾l 3rd of 4 to Chism in open race at Milborne St Andrew (3m, good to firm). MEDIANE 13l 2nd of 6 to The Jogger in hunter chase at Kempton (3m, good). OTTER RIVER unseated rider behind Major Look in hunter chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good to firm) May 95. PRINCIPLE MUSIC 6l 2nd of 12 to Slievenamon Mist in hunter chase here (2m 4f, good).
Selection: PRINCIPLE MUSIC

4.30 HIGHCLERE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £3,652: 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

601 00 ALPINE JOKER 15 (The Cobra Partnership) P Hobbs 11-0 G Tormey 61
602 BARON HRABOVSKY 138F (P Orme) G Thorner 11-0 J Culloty —
603 42P2 CIRCUS STAR 17 (The Ringmasters) D Nicholson 11-0 R Johnson 95
604 CLASSIC VICTORY 265F (Classic Bloodstock Plc) I Campbell 11-0 K Gaule —
605 GINGER FOX 127F (M Van Doorne) Mrs J Pitman 11-0 R Farrant —
606 0 HISAR 13 (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 11-0 G Bradley —
607 3 INFAMOUS 13 (Mrs B Marchant) R O'Sullivan 11-0 N Williamson [illegible]
608 TIMIDJAR 227F (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 11-0 D Fortt (3) —
609 4 TIUTCHEV 24 (The Liars Poker Partnership) Miss H Knight 11-0 J F Titley 71
610 WITHERKAY 141F (R Harding & Partners) P Nicholls 11-0 D Burrows (5) —
611 0 ZAISAN 37 (Mrs N Sweeney) J Gifford 11-0 P Hide —
612 6 SALTY GIRL 13 (Peter Colley Racing) J Moore 10-9 D Gallagher 80
613 533 TAKEAMEMO 8 (Sherwood Partnership Owners Club) O Sherwood 10-9 J Osborne 74

BETTING: 5-2 Ginger Fox, 7-2 Circus Star, 6-1 Infamous, 7-1 Tiutchev, 8-1 Takeamemo, 10-1 Timidjar, 12-1 Witherkay, 14-1 others

1996: HATTA BREEZE 10-6 R Johnson (3-1) D Nicholson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CIRCUS STAR 5l 2nd of 20 to Font Romeu in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). INFAMOUS 8l 3rd of 11 to Red Raja in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good) with SALTY GIRL 22½l 5th and HISAR 45l 9th. ZAISAN 68l 14th of 20 to Splendid Thyne in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, soft). TAKEAMEMO 10l 3rd of 15 to Fitzwilliam in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to firm) with TIUTCHEV 15l 4th.
Selection: INFAMOUS

5.00 WHATCOMBE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,979: 2m 5f) (7 runners)

1 5-412 STORMY PASSAGE 68 (BF,S) (P Luff) P Hobbs 7-12-0 G Tormey (3) 87
2 0/2P1 CAPTAIN JACK 42 (F) (C Smith) M Pipe 7-12-0 D Walsh 87
3 51300/3 UNSINKABLE BOXER 29 (S) (P Green) N Walker 8-11-7 D Finnegan (8) —
4 50-6541 FLAXLEY WOOD 32 (G) (Mrs D La Trobe) R Buckler 6-10-13 G Supple (3) 90
5 850-4 LAUREN'S TREASURE 28 (Miss H Power) Mrs S Williams 6-10-5 L Aspell 86
6 2402 LORD KHALICE 15 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-10-4 Michael Brennan 96
7 006-P32 MOONLIGHTER 18 (Gold Top Racing) C Jackson 7-10-3 D Burrows (3) [illegible]

BETTING: 7-4 Captain Jack, 2-1 Stormy Passage, 5-1 Flaxley Wood, 8-1 Moonlighter, 10-1 Unsinkable Boxer, 12-1 Lord Khalice, 16-1 Lauren's Treasure

1996: FANTASTIC FLEET 4-10-3 S Curran (9-2) Miss J Doyle 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

STORMY PASSAGE 6l 2nd of 13 to Mister Rm in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m, good to soft). CAPTAIN JACK beat Blazing Miracle 5l in 5-runner novice handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m 110yd, good to firm). UNSINKABLE BOXER 25l 3rd of 10 to Fiddling The Facts in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). FLAXLEY WOOD beat Fawley Flyer 1½l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good). LORD KHALICE 9l 2nd of 11 to Lough Tully in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good to soft).
Selection: LORD KHALICE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	29	113	25.7	D Fortt	3	11	27.3
O Sherwood	15	64	23.4	J Osborne	38	148	25.7
N Henderson	21	100	21.0	P Holley	13	65	20.0
A Turnell	10	49	20.4	C Llewellyn	13	101	12.9
Mrs J Pitman	8	49	16.3	N Williamson	8	63	12.7
M Pipe	14	88	15.9	S McNeill	8	65	12.3

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RUGBY UNION

England can bide their time and win

Rob Andrew counsels against an adventurous start that could hand the game to France

Several commentators are urging England to start attacking France from the first minute at Twickenham tomorrow. They suggest style, whereas I would promote caution. The notion that if England can succeed in an all-out offensive at the end of matches, then they should be able to do so from the start, is naive. Frankly, these people misunderstand the game.

Rugby is about attrition as much as it is about flowing movement. It is obvious that an opposition defence is fitter and better organised at the start than it is later in a game. It is then that defenders drop off half a yard and gaps open. England would be handing France victory on a plate were they to begin crazily, fall two or three penalty goals behind, and find themselves playing catch-up.

Perhaps England's only undoing would be if they did force the game. This is now a confident, relaxed England, who know what they are doing. A controlled, patient build-up is again what is required. Those who would have them playing off-the-cuff from the start also seem to forget that the opposition this time is considerably stronger than England have faced so far in the five nations' championship.

I liked the look of England's schedule from the start, and they have fulfilled most expectations. It has been the ideal preparation for the France game: a comfortable home victory against a weak Scotland side and then an even better win in Ireland. Of course, it could be the precursor to a fall, but I doubt it. Even at the best of times, the French do not relish the trip to Twickenham.

In the majority of international matches, but especially against France, the physical battle up front dictates results. There is nothing to frighten the England front row. Mark Regan and Graham Rowntree were at their best in Dublin. Martin Johnson and Simon Shaw, in the second row, should be confident of winning a lot of ball. In the back row, Lawrence Dallaglio is in his rightful place at blindside flanker. Richard Hill looks increasingly impressive, and Tim Rodber is riding high after a storming performance against Ireland.

France can — and I am sure will — release Abdelatif Benazzi, a one-man pack, off the scrums, but I expect England to close him down. The problem with having such a well-known danger man is that the opposition does its homework on him. We did the same in the days of Serge Blanco and Pierre Berbizier. We knew their threat, and sought deliberately to blunt it, often successfully.

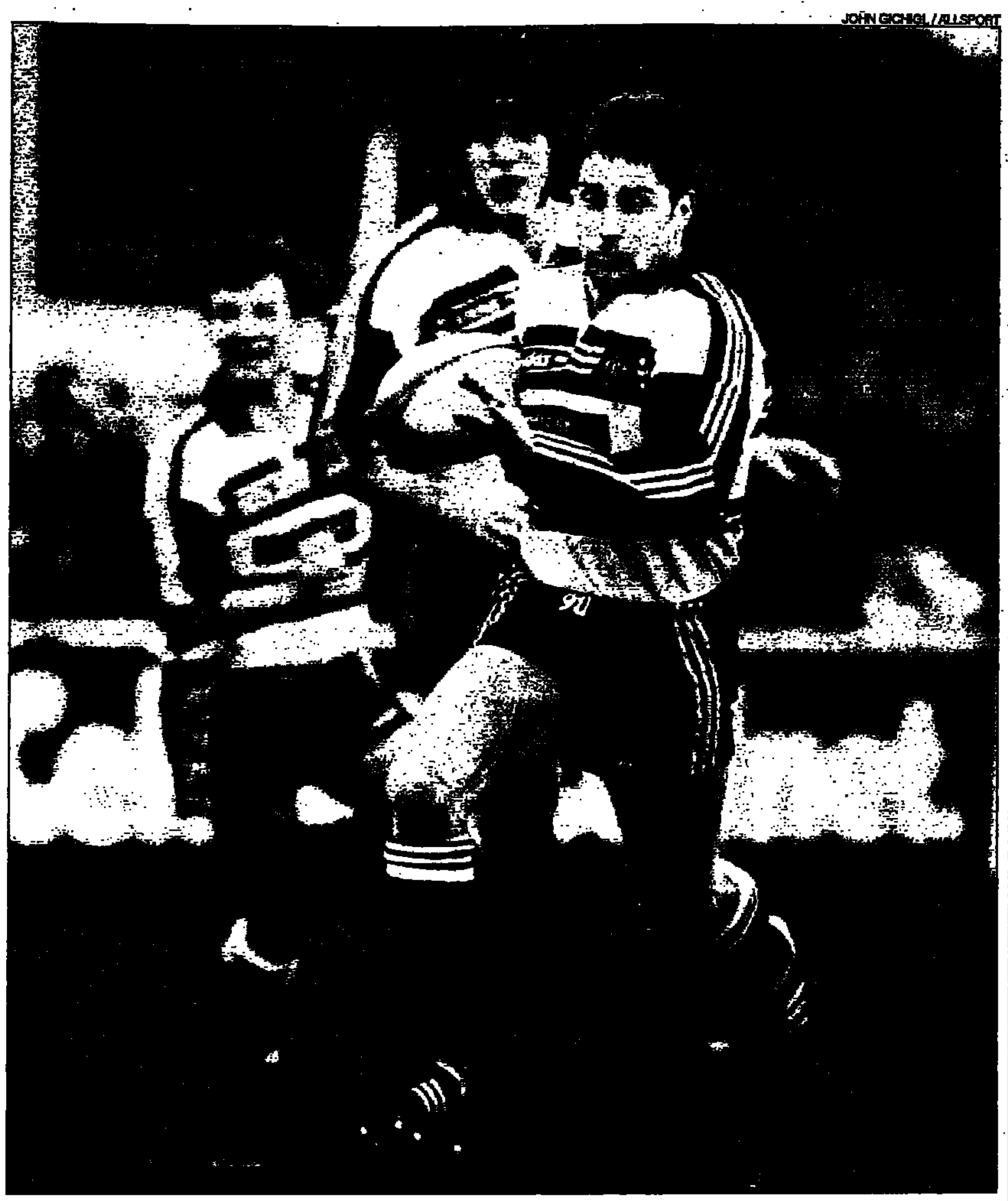
Without Ntamack, Saint-André, Castaignède, or Roumat, France, vitally, are missing players of character and international experience. Good individuals have taken their places. Like New Zealand, France churn out players of flair and quality, but it is an unsettled side and one that appears to be not quite sure where it is going.

At Toulouse, Pierre Villepreux was responsible for one of the great club sides. He is assistant coach to Jean-Claude Skrela and the two are looking to produce an ambitious style of play. In the defeat of Wales, though, France made mistakes that would play into England's hands should they be repeated tomorrow.

It is ten years since France won at Twickenham. This fact should be rammed home, because France are acutely aware of it and are intimidated by it. The area where England have excelled in recent years against them is defence, perhaps because everyone knows what France are capable of producing.

There are two reasons to fear the French. One is their sheer physicality up front. The fight has to be taken to them. The other is their unpredictability. Lay off them even for a couple of seconds and they are quite capable of producing something glorious.

To use a cricket analogy, England are compiling a solid century. Only if the gaps are there should they go for them, but confidence is high and, although not on the scale of the first two victories, I would be surprised if England did not emerge winners again.



JOHN GICHOL / ALLSPORT

Tait breaks clear, wearing the colours of Newcastle, the club that brought him back to rugby union

Tait offers true professionalism

Mark Souster meets the Scotland centre with the ability to revive their season

ONE of the things Alan Tait did with his first cheque from Widnes rugby league club nine years ago was to buy a plot of land in Kelso, on which he had a house built. Despite moving to the North of England, he always intended to return to his roots. For him, as a passionate Scot — the Cumbrian accent notwithstanding — the Borders were home.

The advent of professionalism in rugby union enabled him to fulfil his wish sooner than expected. When Rob Andrew invited him to join Newcastle, it suited his needs perfectly. His selection for the national side to play Ireland at Murrayfield tomorrow was a natural progression.

It was different for his father, also named Alan, who went south from Kelso 30 years earlier to join the paid ranks with Workington. While Tait Sr encountered hostility on his return, the welcome accorded the younger Tait was symptomatic of the new spirit of openness within rugby. Kelso greeted him like a long-lost son, while many in the wider rugby community fêted him as the instant answer to Scotland's ills.

"I'll have to score ten tries and kick 15 goals to live up to it," Tait said yesterday. He understands why expectations are high but insists they are unrealistic. What he can offer is a mental hardness forged in rugby league and through years as a professional sportsman, something his Scotland colleagues are only beginning to experience. "I was surprised that players should immediately be expected to be fitter and stronger just because they were full time," he said.

"I guarantee it will take a good couple of years before the younger players appreciate what it all means. It is a job, not fun and games.

"It is no use me coming up to Scotland and being a shy little boy. I am 32 and feel I can have an input. I'll be asking David Johnston [coach to the Scotland backs] if I can put a bit into the training."

To Tait, rugby, of whichever code, is intrinsically a simple game. "The ball is the same shape, you tackle, you pass and still score tries. So it hasn't been hard. Anyway, it's too late for an old dog to learn new tricks."

The impact he made on the Scotland A side last month, when a strong Welsh team was beaten by 50 points, has left people hoping for a repeat performance tomorrow, when he wins his ninth cap, ten years on from his international debut. His influence and organisational skills were readily evident in that A international, yet he admits to having been "frightened to death". He recalled: "I kept looking at the Welsh team thinking, 'I am up against Leigh Davies, the best centre in Britain last year, and I'm going to be shown up'."

He was not and the call for his reinstatement was heeded. Now, Murrayfield awaits. "The wife says she'll give me a clout if tears start coming down my face when I'm singing *Flower of Scotland*. Back in 1988 we sang the National Anthem, which didn't have the same feeling to it."

After two depressing defeats in the five nations' championship, Tait knows a victory against Ireland is paramount. "We were unlucky against Wales. England were just too strong and, if we don't watch out, they will pull away from the rest of us. We have to beat Ireland. A win is a must. How we do it doesn't matter."

ATHLETICS

Family thrown together in common cause

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

THE limp handshake, the soft voice, do not fit the giant. The 6ft 9in, 20 stone, five pints of milk-a-day youth with size 16½ feet who, quite possibly, is Britain's next great thrower.

At 17, Carl Myerscough is immensely big and immensely talented, an athlete who can say without sounding ridiculous that his ambition is to be an Olympic champion and world record-holder, and one whose delicate touch with a paint brush is as much appreciated at Millfield School as is his power with a shot and discus.

"Very artistic," his art master says, and if gold is not yet Myerscough's favourite colour, it may become so. "Training is the most important thing in my life," he said. He eats enormously, sleeps ten hours a night to be fresh for his workouts, and has set his sights on European and world junior gold medals before leaving the age group.

This weekend, by way of a stepping stone, Myerscough competes for the Great Britain Under-20 team in a three-nations international in Chemnitz, Germany. At the same time, David Myerscough has been fighting the difficult fight that most sporting fathers face sooner or later: trying to remain a match for junior.

Until recently, Myerscough Sr, though no longer his son's better or equal as a thrower, was still level in bench pressing. "He has just beaten me by 2½ kilos," David Myerscough said. "He did 162½ and I did 160." It is not, though, time to give up. While Carl is in Germany, dad will be out to prove that he is among the best fifty-somethings in Europe.

Over the next three days, some 1,300 competitors, from 33 countries, aged between 35 and 95, will contest the European indoor veterans championships in Birmingham. Myerscough Jr has been as much a source of encouragement to his father as his father has to him and Myerscough Sr is optimistic of a medal in the over-50s shot.

A former Lancashire discus champion, Myerscough Sr returned to the sport four years ago, after a 20-year lay-off, to provide competition and inspiration for his son.

"If I can still do it, it will encourage him," Myerscough Sr, 53, said. Years ago, with a lightweight shot bought for Carl, they would practise together in a local park.

"We used to make it competitive to draw the best out of each other and it soon became that Carl was as enthusiastic as I was," he said. "Now he has taken over as the motivator.

"When they start eclipsing you, you do not like to feel you are going downhill. You know it happens, but you try to hold on to your youth as long as you can. I am involved in the sport that Carl is in and it adds to the motivation and purpose for doing it."

At 6ft ½in, and 16 stone, Myerscough Sr is less physically imposing than his son. "Strength-wise, there is not a lot of difference but he is more athletic and has better coordination, timing and range," Myerscough Sr said. "I think I have passed on to him that wish and willpower, and abilty to train hard."

Such is Myerscough Jr's potential that John Godina, the shot put world champion, from the United States, has agreed to work with him when the young Briton goes to the Univeristy of California, Los Angeles, for three weeks at Easter.

Myerscough Sr will be without his training partner but, no matter, he has another one at home, Carl's younger brother, Grant.

"I will try and train Grant while he is away and not waste time," Myerscough Sr said. These fifty-somethings are irrespressible.

Carl Myserscough towers over his father, David

The key issues for school governors.

February 28
March 7
March 14
March 21

For four weeks *The Times Educational Supplement* will be running free guides for school governors. They offer all the facts, advice and inspiration you need to get the most out of being a governor in 1997. In addition, Joan Sallis (a governor herself) writes regularly from the front line. So visit your newsagent and don't miss your copy of *The TES* from Friday 28 February.

TES Internet Service at http://www.tes.co.uk

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

GUILDFORD: European championship: England 79 Russia 81.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Sacramento 111 Boston 105; Detroit 117 Golden State 117. Orlando 98 Miami 86; Indiana 92 Seattle 78; Atlanta 79 Milwaukee 72; Minnesota 108 San Antonio 89; Phoenix 111 Philadelphia 104; LA Clippers 83 Vancouver 80; New York 96 Portland 95 (OT)

CYCLING

CALPE, Spain: Tour of Valencia: Second stage (180km): 1, M Fondriest (It) 4hr 42.46sec; 2, V Ekimov (Russ); 3, Z Spruch (Pol); 4, M Zberg (Swit); 5, D Konyshev (Russ) all same time. Overall positions: 1, Spruch 8hr 29 42sec; 2, E Zabel (Ger); 3, E Leoni (It), 4, Zberg all same time.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

FA CUP: Fifth round: Derby County 3 Coventry City 2. Fifth-round replay: Chelsea 1 Leicester City 0 (aet)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Southampton 0 Wimbledon 0

COCA-COLA CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Stockport County 0 Middlesbrough 2.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Swindon Town 3 Birmingham City 1

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth-round replays: Celtic 2 Hibernian 0; Hamilton Academical 0 Motherwell 2 (at Broadwood Stadium, Clyde)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Livingston 2 Brechin City 3. Third division: East Stirlingshire 0 Arbroath 0

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Newport AFC 1 Gravesend and Northfleet 3. Midland division: VS Rugby 2 Tamworth 6. Southern division: Bashley 0 St Leonards 0

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston United 1 Gainsborough 1. First division: Farsley Celtic 2 Stocksbridge PS 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Ipswich Town 6 Crystal Palace 1; Norwich City 1 Bristol City 4

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Carmarthen Town 0 Aberystwyth 4.

WELSH CUP: Quarter-final replay: Cwmbran 2 Holywell 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Eastleigh 3 Bournemouth 2.

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bolton Wanderers 2 Blackburn Rovers 0; Manchester United 4 Nottingham Forest 0. First division: Aston Villa 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0. Second division: Hull City 2 Wrexham 0. Cup: Group four: Scunthorpe United 0 Grimsby Town 2.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Guisborough Town 2 Dunston Federation 1, Shildon 1 Billingham Synthonia 2; Whickham 4 Morpeth Town 2.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham Town 0 Herne Bay 2

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Feltham 4 Raynes Park Vale 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby United 4 Liversedge 0. Cup: Fourth round: Brigg Town 2 Glasshoughton Welfare 0

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Soham Town Rangers 1 Fakenham Town 1; Stowmarket Town 0 Wisbech Town 1.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Fairford Town 0 Endsleigh 3

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Snickers Under-19 Trophy: St Cuthbert's HS 2 St Thomas More 0; Richard Challoner 4 Harvey GS 2; Beauchamp 3 John Port 5 (aet). Worcester Sixth Form Coll 1 Oxford Coll 3. English Schools Goodyear Under-16 Trophy: Norton 2 Cardinal Heenan 1; City, Sheffield 2 Lutterworth GS 1. English Schools Girls Under-16 Vimto Trophy: Holgate 4 Frestand 2 (aet).

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Czech Republic 4 Belarus 1 (at Podebrady); France 2 Holland 1 (at Parc des Princes).

SPANISH CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Real Betis 2 Rayo Vallecano 0; Atlético Madrid 2 Barcelona 2.

ITALIAN CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Napoli 1 Internazionale 1 (aet; 2-2 on aggregate. Napoli win 5-3 on penalties)

KUALA LUMPUR: Dunhill Cup: Bosnia 2 Indonesia 0; Zimbabwe 6 Vietnam 0.

COPA LIBERTADORES: First round: Oriente Petrolero (Bol) 4 Guarani (Par) 1; Universidad Catolica (Chile) 6 Mineros (Ven) 0; Alianza Lima (Peru) 1 Cruzeiro (Br) 0.

GOLF

DUBAI: Dubai Desert Classic: Leading first-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated). 65: D Hospital (Sp), C Montgomerie. 66: M James, B Langer (Ger), P Harrington, E Darcy. 67: J Van de Velde (Fr). 68: F Tarnaud (Fr), K Eriksson (Swe), R Burns, P Marksaeng (Thai), M Hallberg (Swe). R Willis (Aus). Other scores: 69: I Woosnam, P Baker, R Chapman, D Gilford, J M Olazábal (Sp). 70: C Rocca (It). 71: C O'Connor Jr, G Norman (Aus). 72: B Lane. 73: A Coltart. 74: S Ballesteros (Sp), D Smyth. 76: R Rafferty.

☐ *Nine players did not finish due to bad light.*

SYDNEY: Australia women's masters: Leading first-round scores (Aus unless stated): 66: Charlotta Sorenstam (Sweden), G Graham (Can); C Figg-Currier (US). 67: K Mourgue D'Algue (Fr). 68: L Bemvenuti (Br), W Doolan; K Weiss (US), A Munt. L Davies (GB). Other scores: 69: K Webb. 71: E Dahlhof (Swe). 72: J Morley (GB), H Dobson (GB), C Nilsmark (Swe), S Maynor (GB), S Gustafson (Swe). 73: L Hackney (GB), M Hjorth (Swe), C Pierce (GB). 74: K Marshall (GB). C Matthew (GB). 75: S Croce (It), C Hj Koch (Swe), D Reid (GB). 76: K Davies (GB). D Barnard (GB), C Hall (GB). 77: S Dallongeville (Fr). T Fischer (Ger). 79: K Orum (Den). 80: T Hjertstedt (Swe).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Chicago 2 Hartford 2 (OT); New Jersey 5 NY Islanders 3; Philadelphia 8 Ottawa 5; Washington 3 Toronto 1; Phoenix 5 Calgary 2; Edmonton 3 Anaheim 3 (OT).

LACROSSE

MILTON KEYNES: National Schoolgirls Tournament: Boyd Cup (seniors): Final: Queen Anne's 3 Malvern 3. Westcott-Jones Cup (juniors): Final: Queen Anne's 3 Queen Margaret's 0.

ROWING

CAMBRIDGE: University Lent races: Men: First division: Trinity Hall bpd Caius; 1st & 3rd Trinity bpd Christ's, LMBC bpd Queens'; Girton bpd Emmanuel; Fitzwilliam bpd Magdalene; Selwyn bpd St Catherine's. Today's starting order: Downing, Trinity Hall, Caius, 1st & 3rd Trinity, Christ's, LMBC, Queens', Churchill, Jesus, Pembroke, Girton, Emmanuel, Fitzwilliam, Magdalene, Sidney Sussex, Selwyn, St Catherine's. Second division: Robinson bpd Clare, LMBC II bpd Downing II, 1st & 3rd Trinity II bpd Corpus Christie. Queens' II bpd Jesus II, Christ's II bpd Peterhouse II, Trinity Hall II bpd Magdalene II. Today's starting order: Robinson, Clare, Peterhouse, LMBC II, Downing II, Kings, Caius II, 1st & 3rd Trinity II, Corpus Christie, Queens' II, Jesus II, Pembroke II, Clare II, LMBC III, Christ's II, Peterhouse II, Trinity Hall II. Third division: Trinity Hall II bpd Fitzwilliam II, CCAT bpd Emmanuel II, Downing III bpd Jesus III, Wolfson bpd Robinson II, 1st & 3rd Trinity III bpd Corpus Christie, Homerton bpd LMBC IV, Hughes Hall bpd Clare III. Today's starting order: Magdalene II, Fitzwilliam II, Selwyn II, Churchill II, CCAT, Emmanuel II, St Catharines II, Girton II, Downing III, Jesus III, Wolfson, Robinson II, 1st & 3rd Trinity III, Corpus Christie II, Homerton, LMBC VI, Hughes Hall. Fourth division: Hughes Hall overbpd Churchill III, Queens' III bpd Sidney Sussex II, Darwin bpd King's II, Magdalen III bpd Sidney Sussex III, Girton III bpd Pembroke III, Christ's III bpd CCAT II, Caius III bpd St Catharine's III. Outstanding result from first day: Girton III bpd CCAT II. Today's starting order: Clare III Queens' III, Sidney Sussex II, Churchill III, Darwin, 6 King's II, Trinity Hall III, Magdalen III, Sidney Sussex III, Girton III, Pembroke III, Christ's III, CCAT II, Addenbrook's, St Edmund's, Jesus IV, Caius III. Fifth division: Churchill IV bpd Wolfson II, 1st and 3rd Trinity III bpd Robinson III, Downing IV bpd Sidney Sussex IV, Queens' IV bpd LMBC V, 1st & 3rd Trinity V bpd Fitzwilliam III, Darwin II bpd Peterhouse III, 1st & 3rd Trinity VII bpd CCAT III. Today's starting order: St Catharine's III, Churchill IV, Wolfson II, 1st & 3rd Trinity IV, Robinson III, Downing IV, Sidney Sussex IV, Selwyn III, Queens' IV, LMBC V, 1st & 3rd Trinity V, Fitzwilliam III, Trinity Hall IV, 1st & 3rd Trinity VI, Peterhouse III, Darwin II, 1st & 3rd Trinity VII, CCAT III.

WOMEN: First division: St Catherine's bpd Newham, Pembroke bpd Clare, Caius bpd Sidney Sussex, 1st & 3rd Trinity bpd Selwyn. Today's starting order: Emmanuel, Trinity Hall, Queens', MLBC, New Hall, Jesus, Churchill, St Catherine's, Newham, Christ's, Girton, Pembroke, Clare, Caius, Sidney Sussex, Downing, 1st & 3rd Trinity. Second division: 1st & 3rd Trinity bpd CCAT, Jesus II bpd Corpus Christie, Fitzwilliam bpd Magedalene, LMBCII bpd Robinson, Homerton bpd Emmanuel II, Kings bpd Peterhouse, Newham II bpd Wolfson, Trinity Hall II bpd New Hall II. Today's starting order: Selwyn, CCAT, Jesus II, Corpus Christie, Fitzwilliam, Magedelene, LMBC II, Robinson, Homerton, Emmanuel II, Kings, Peterhouse, Newham II, Wolfson, Trinity Hall II, New Hall II, St Catharines II. Third division: Selwyn II bpd Hughes Hall, CCAT II bpd Downing II, Robinson II bpd Magdalen II, Fitzwilliam II bpd Sidney Sussex II. Today's starting order: Vet School II, Queens' II, Selwyn II, Hughes Hall, Darwin, Girton II, 1st & 3rd Trinity II, Homerton II, 9 CCAT II, Downing II, Robinson II, Magdalen II, LMBC III, Fitzwilliam II, Sidney Sussex II

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Llanelli 46 Cardiff 28.

TOUR MATCH: Orrell 29 Mendoza (Arg) 3.

CLUB MATCHES: Blackheath 19 Army 39; Cambridge University 37 Penguins 36.

CIS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP UNDER-21: Midlands final: Warwickshire 6 Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshier and Derbyshire 10

SNOOKER

VALLETTA, Malta: European Open: Second round: P Ebdon (Eng) bt A Robidoux (Can) 5-3; S Hendry (Scot) bt J Birch (Eng) 5-3; J Parrott (Eng) bt A Drago (Malta) 5-2; J Wattana (Tha) bt C Small (Scot) 5-3.

SQUASH

ILKESTON: Edward Poore Memorial Challenge: S Parke (Yorkshire) bt P Marshall (Nottinghamshire) 9-3, 6-7, 7-9, 9-5.

TENNIS

MILAN: Men's tournament: Second round: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt C Pioline (Fr) 7-6, 7-6; K Kucera (Slovakia) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 7-6, 6-2; D Prinosil (Ger) bt M Philippoussis (Aus) 6-7, 6-2, 6-3; P Korda (Cz) bt T Henman (GB) 6-4, 6-4.

CROYDON: LTA men's satellite tournament: Quarter-final: A Richardson (GB) bt V Liukko (Fin) 6-4, 6-4. Semi-final: M Stadling (Swe) bt Richardson 6-1, 4-6, 6-3; J Delgado (GB) bt D van Uffelen (Bel) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

BUSHEY: Women's tournament: First round: O Barabanschikova (Bela) bt J Pullin (GB) 6-3, 6-2, J Wohr (Ger) bt N van Lottum (Fr) 6-0, 6-4, S Rottier (Holl) bt C Torrens-Valero (Sp) 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, S Schmidle (Ger) bt S Smith (GB) 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, R Sandu (Rom) bt K Freye (Ger) 6-4, 6-4, O Lugina (Ukr) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 7-6, 4-5, 6-2.

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Igls	0	40	good	varied	closed	snow	2	27/2
(Igls pistes improving; Stubai Glacier superb)								
Obergurgl	40	150	good	powder	good	snow	2	27/2
(Snowing with poor visibility; great powder snow)								
Schladming	30	40	good	varied	icy	snow	4	27/2
(Upper slopes very good with new snow)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	115	260	good	powder	good	sun	3	27/2
(Perfect snow conditions; avalanche danger off-piste)								
Avoriaz	165	185	good	powder	good	fine	0	27/2
(Excellent skiing; plenty of powder everywhere)								
ITALY								
Livigno	105	205	good	powder	fair	snow	-3	27/2
Excellent powder to be found; some icy spots low down								
Geilo	65	70	good	varied	fair	fine	-6	26/2
(Some hard/icy patches but mostly very good)								
SWITZERLAND								
Klosters	40	190	powder	powder	good	snow	-2	27/2
(All pistes greatly improved with new snow)								
Verbier	50	230	good	powder	good	sun	-4	27/2
(Fabulous powder skiing with new snow)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League
First division
Tranmere v Stoke (7 45)

Third division
Colchester v Scarborough (7.45)
Doncaster v Wigan

Bell's Scottish League
Third division
Albion v Cowdenbeath

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians v St Patrick's Ath (7 45); Dundalk v Derry (7 45); Shamrock v Bray (7.45).

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Newmarket v Soham.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final: Greater Manchester v Humberside (at Belle Vue, 7.0)

RUGBY UNION

A international matches
England v France
(at Welford Road, 8 0)
Scotland v Ireland
(at Myreside, Edinburgh, 4.0)

Under-21 international matches
England v France
(at Welford Road, 6.0)
Scotland v Ireland
(at Myreside, Edinburgh, 2.30)

STUDENT INTERNATIONAL: England v France (Cambridge, 7.0)

CLUB MATCHES: Gala v Selkirk (7 15); Hawick v Kelso (7.15); Peebles v Melrose (8 0). Musselburgh v Boroughmuir (7.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Worthing v Chester (8 0)

BOWLS: Women's English national indoor championship (at York).

SWIMMING: British Club team championships (at Stockport).

CRICKET

Cronje gets ready to do battle in the ultimate test

By Simon Wilde

SOUTH Africa and Australia begin a three-match series in Johannesburg today that, inevitably, will be seen by some as a decider for the unofficial world championship of Test cricket.

Under a system for calculating such an unofficial championship — devised by Matthew Engel, the editor of *Wisden*, and the table for which is given below — Australia and South Africa hold first and second places respectively. The last time the countries met in South Africa, three years ago, the series was drawn, so, if South Africa win this time, they would move to within two points of Australia.

"We obviously recognise Australia as the best Test-playing nation in the world after they beat West Indies home and away," Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, said yesterday. "If we beat them in the series, we'll be right up there with the best in the world; but calling ourselves world champions would be a little naive when you consider we have yet to play Pakistan or West Indies in a full Test series."

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, declined — as he has consistently done — to talk of world championships. "It is another series for us and we want to win it," he said.

Australia return to the Wanderers with some trepidation after their previous experience in 1994, when they were beaten by 197 runs and found themselves baited by a highly vocal crowd. "They will say things on the boundary edge about you that will hit a little bit close to home," Taylor said yesterday. "They are very personal and nasty."

Taylor feels that the crowd's behaviour contributed to Australia's defeat. It also played its part in two Australians, Merv Hughes and Shane Warne, being penalised by the International Cricket Council for verbal spats with the opposition. Hughes also reacted over-aggressively towards the crowd at one point. The Australians are guarding against a repetition this time.

Taylor feels Australia are the better prepared for what is likely to be a hard and closely fought series, having recently played five Test matches against West Indies. South Africa completed a series win over India last month.

Taylor's own form with the bat is one of his side's main worries, most of the other batsmen having made runs in the warm-up games. Another will be the bowling of Paul Adams, the South Africa left-arm wrist spinner. "We've spent a lot of time watching Adams on video and the boys are looking forward to playing against him," Geoff Marsh, the Australia coach, said. "We've formulated a few ideas on how to play him."

South Africa's own batting appeared fragile against India and they will miss the all-round skills of McMillan, who is recovering from injury. The pitch is expected to be less fast than usual for the Wanderers and will offer only slow turn for the spinners.

South African Breweries has put up Rd180,000 [about £24,000] in prize-money, but Rd50,000 will be withheld if the series is drawn as an incentive to positive play. The second Test is in Port Elizabeth from March 14 to 18 and the third in Centurion from March 21 to 25.

SOUTH AFRICA (probable): W J Cronje (captain), G Kirsten, A C Hudson, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, S M Pollock, D J Richardson, L Klusener, A A Donald, P R Adams.

AUSTRALIA (probable): M A Taylor (captain), M L Hayden, M T G Elliott, M E Waugh, G S Blewett, S R Waugh, M G Bevan, I A Healy, S K Warne, J N Gillespie, G D McGrath.

TABLE

	P	Pts	Diff
Australia	14	21	+7
South Africa	12	17	+5
India	13	17	+4
West Indies	11	14	+3
Pakistan	12	14	+2
Sri Lanka	14	12	-2
England	14	11	-3
Zimbabwe	10	4	-6
New Zealand	16	6	-10

☐ *Table is based on the most recent meetings, home and away, between each pair of teams since 1990. Two points are awarded for winning a series or one-off Test, one point for drawing.*

Lloyd planning to be better prepared

By Our Sports Staff

DAVID LLOYD, coach to the England cricket team, has already mapped out his plans for the tour of the West Indies next winter. They include a two-week stay in Antigua for preparation purposes and time set aside for families later in the tour.

Lloyd believes that there are lessons to be learnt from the campaigns in Zimbabwe and New Zealand this winter — from which wives, children and girlfriends were excluded — both in terms of preparation and itinerary. The England team begins its penultimate match of the tour later today — the fourth one-day international in Auckland. England lead the five-match series 2-0, with one match tied.

Lloyd has arranged a pre-Christmas trip to Sharjah, for a one-day tournament also involving West Indies, Pakistan and India, in an effort to get his players ready for the Caribbean. But he feels that more practice and fitness work needs to be done in the West Indies before the match programme beings.

"When we arrived in Zimbabwe we were fit but they caught us cold by picking damn near a Test side in the first game. I don't want to be caught out like that again," Lloyd said.

England leave for the West Indies soon after the turn of the year and Lloyd is planning to have a couple of 100 overs a side warm-up games in the first fortnight. The tour programme includes five Tests and five one-day internationals, which will be played after the Test series has been completed.

Lloyd said he was greatly encouraged by the competitive environment within the England set-up. "We now have a strong nucleus of players — especially when you look at what we have achieved this winter," he said.

"The under-19s went to Pakistan and won, the A team went to Australia and won and we have been successful in New Zealand."

SADAYUKI MIKAMI

Katia Seizinger, of Germany, speeds her way to the sixth fastest time during practice yesterday for the women's World Cup downhill race in Hakuba, Japan, today

SNOOKER

Past form points to Hendry

By Phil Yates

STEPHEN HENDRY will be an overwhelming favourite to win his fifteenth consecutive match in world-ranking events, and his 23rd in 24 outings, when he meets James Wattana, of Thailand, here in Malta today for a semi-final place in the European Open.

His career record against Wattana — the score is 14-3 in the world champion's favour — is a strong indication that the form book will prove reliable. Wattana is also handicapped by having to become acquainted with a new cue.

During a practice session only two days before travelling to the tournament, Wattana irreparably damaged his old cue while larking around. He has borrowed a replacement from a friend but, inevitably, does not feel comfortable with it, despite recording hard-fought wins over Hendry's fellow Scots, Euan Henderson and Chris Small, in the previous rounds.

During his 5-3 victory over Jon Birch, Hendry compiled a break of 124. It meant that he has run up at least 30 centuries in competition in each of the past eight seasons. The £9,050 that he is guaranteed to collect here carries his total prize-money to more than £300,000 for the ninth successive campaign.

In yesterday's first quarter-final, Ken Doherty recovered from a 3-1 interval deficit against Peter Ebdon to establish a 4-3 lead and move within one frame of a semi-final against Stephen Lee or John Higgins, the world No 2.

Doherty, who had lost his eight most recent encounters with Ebdon, began his recovery with a break of 45 in the fifth frame before drawing level at 3-3 with a green-to-black clearance that included a fearless pink, using the rest, down the side cushion.

Doherty, by now clearly full of confidence, also picked up the seventh frame with a break of 80 as Ebdon lost his early certainty.

EQUESTRIANISM

Confidence high as riders head for Paris

By Jenny MacArthur

JOHN WHITAKER, who led an unprecedented clean sweep by British riders at the Bologna World Cup qualifier last weekend, will attempt a second successive victory when he competes in the Paris qualifier this weekend. Paris is the venue for the thirteenth of 15 qualifiers for the Volvo Showjumping World Cup final, which takes place in Sweden from April 30 to May 4. The top 19 riders from the Western European League qualify.

Two weeks ago, Michael Whitaker, who was third in the London qualifier at Olympia in December, was the only Briton in the top 19. However, Bologna — where the Whitakers, Geoff Billington and Robert Smith filled the top four places — has altered the picture. Michael and John Whitaker are second and ninth in the league, respectively; Smith is joint fifteenth and Billington joint eighteenth. All four compete this weekend, together with Nick Skelton, who is in 25th place.

Although John Whitaker has never failed to qualify for the final since the World Cup started in 1979, his record had looked under threat this season after disappointing outings in Geneva, London and Bordeaux. He was lying 32nd before Bologna. "I definitely needed more points," Whitaker said.

Grannusch, the 18-year-old gelding who brought him the timely victory, is resting this weekend. In his place, Whitaker will bring out his Berlin winner, Welham.

His younger brother, Michael, will rely on Ashley, an outstanding nine-year-old. Winner of the 1995 Foxhunter Championship, Ashley has performed admirably this season.

Skelton is bringing out Showtime, his Olympic horse, this weekend and, with Smith having the choice of his Olympia World Cup winner, Tees Hanauer, or the eight-year-old Big Time, on which he was fourth in Bologna, and Billington riding It's Otto, his Olympic horse, hopes of another British victory are high.

IN BRIEF

Durham's batting bolstered by Speight

DURHAM completed their third close-season signing by acquiring Martin Speight from Sussex on a three-year contract yesterday. Speight follows two other batsmen — Nick Speak, of Lancashire, and Jon Lewis, of Essex — to a county that scored only four championship centuries last year.

Nottinghamshire were also interested in Speight but he was anxious to resume full-time wicketkeeping, which Durham want him to do. Speight is the fifth player to leave Sussex in seven months.

Belt chance

Boxing: Ryan Rhodes, the British light middleweight champion from Sheffield, will after all get his chance to become the quickest to win a Lonsdale Belt outright. Rhodes will try to win the British title for the third time against Del Bryan, of Nottingham, at Reading on March 14.

New challenge

Swimming: Nick Gillingham is to launch a new legal challenge to the successful Russian appeal against the disqualification of Andrei Korneev from third place in the 200 metres breaststroke at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year. Fresh evidence has emerged this week that Bromantan, the drug for which Korneev tested positive, is performance-enhancing.

Downing ahead

Rowing: Downing, the leaders of men's division one, had a grandstand view as the next six boats bumped out in the Cambridge University Lent races. Christ's were the last to go when caught by 1st and 3rd Trinity ten strokes after the railway bridge.

No police action

Football: Police have decided not to take any action after the brawl between Chesterfield and Plymouth Argyle players on Saturday in which four players were sent off by Richard Poulain. The FA is awaiting the referee's report before deciding whether, to take any action.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

To bid a Grand Slam which has little to spare in the way of high cards usually requires some special tools. The hand below occurred in the 1997 Macallan International Pairs. It was bid to Seven Spades at five of the eight tables, and came home when the hearts broke 3-2.

W	E
♠AKQ9	♠J875
♥KQ8543	♥A10
♦Q	♦A107
♣J8	♣A753

Some of the successful auctions:

Mari	Sharif
1H	1S
3S (1)	3NT (2)
4D (3)	4H (3)
4NT (4)	5C (5)
7S	Pass

(1) Not forcing, and valuing the hand conservatively. Certainly there was no guarantee that East-West could make Four Spades if East had an unsuitable minimum.

(2) An inquiry bid — many players have the agreement that, if they have found an eight-card major fit, they use 3NT to ask for further information rather than proposing it as a place to play.

(3) Cue-bids (4) Blackwood (5) 0 or 3 aces — clearly three after East's 3NT and Four Heart bids.

The other successful auctions all started with West "splintering" on the second round. This was the Norwegian sequence:

Helness	Helgemo
1H	1S
4D (1)	4NT (2)
5S (3)	5NT (4)
7S (5)	Pass

(1) Valuing the hand as being worth a rise to Four Spades. Four Diamonds guaranteed four-card spade support and showed a singleton diamond.

(2), (3) Five-ace Blackwood, and a reply showing two of the five "aces" (the king of spades counting as an ace), and the queen of trumps.

(4) East cannot possibly tell whether the playing strength is there for Seven Spades. But, by bidding 5NT, which asks for specific kings, he confirms that his side has all the aces.

(5) Knowing he is facing a hand with three aces he can count a probable ten tricks in spades and hearts, two minor-suit aces, and a ruff somewhere for the thirteenth trick.

Forrester and Robson bid identically up to 5NT. Then Forrester bid Six Hearts and, when Robson bid Six Spades in tempo, went on to Seven Spades. If Forrester thought the hand worth Seven Spades over 5NT, he would have done better to bid it immediately — that way he would have avoided the ethical problems that might have occurred had Robson bid Six Spades slowly.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TOSTON
a. A toasted ham sandwich
b. A pebble for skimming
c. A silver coin

SELECTRIC
a. A typewriter
b. Picky
c. Type of proportional voting

TENORINO
a. A miniature eclair
b. A high tenor
c. A soft wind from the sea

SONGKOK
a. Sweet noodle stew
b. A love song
c. A skull-cap

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Oxford v Cambridge

The annual Varsity match takes place tomorrow afternoon at the RAC Club in Pall Mall. The first match was held at the City of London Chess Club in 1873 with more than 400 spectators and grandmasters Zukertort and Blackburne analysing the games for the public. Given the status of Zukertort and Blackburne at that time, that is rather as if Anand and Kramnik turned up to comment now.

The standard of play in 1873 was low and Howard Staunton thought the combatants "as a rule, very ignorant of chess theory". Nevertheless, the Cambridge team, according to the standard work *Cambridge Chess* by R. G. Eales of the University of Kent at Canterbury, contained some interesting characters.

Between 1873 and 1914 two presidents of the Cambridge club were J. N. Keynes, father of the economist, and Alaistair Crowley, the noted Satanist. There was only one president with claims to be a strong player, namely H. E. Atkins, who won the British championship nine times. Between 1891 and 1894, Atkins was a scholar at Peterhouse, the college which had outlawed chess almost 600 years earlier.

The following game is one of the most spectacular played the history of the match.

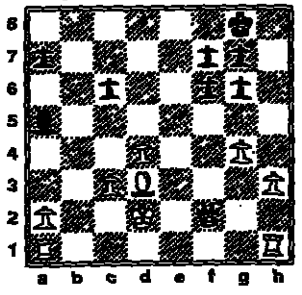
White: M. J. Corden (Oxford)
Black: A. H. Williams (Cambridge)
Varsity match, 1970

Alekhine's Defence

1	e4	Nf6
2	Nc3	d5
3	e5	d4
4	exf6	dxc3
5	bxc3	exf6
6	Nf3	Bd6
7	d4	0-0
8	Bd3	Re8+
9	Be3	Bg4
10	0-0	c6
11	h3	Bh5
12	c4	Nd7
13	c5	Bc7
14	g4	Bg6
15	Nh4	b6
16	cxb6	Nxb6
17	Nxg6	hxg6
18	Kg2	Qd5
19	Rh1	Rxe3
20	fxe3	Qg3+
21	Kf1	Nd5
22	Qe1	Nxe3+
23	Ke2	Qd6
24	Qf2	Re8
25	Qxe3	Rxe3+
26	Kxe3	Qg3+
27	Kd2	Ba5+
28	c3	Qf2+

White resigns

Diagram of final position

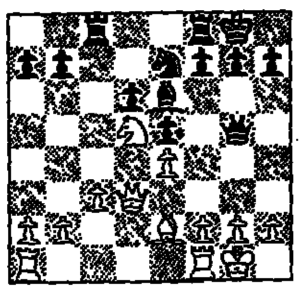


☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

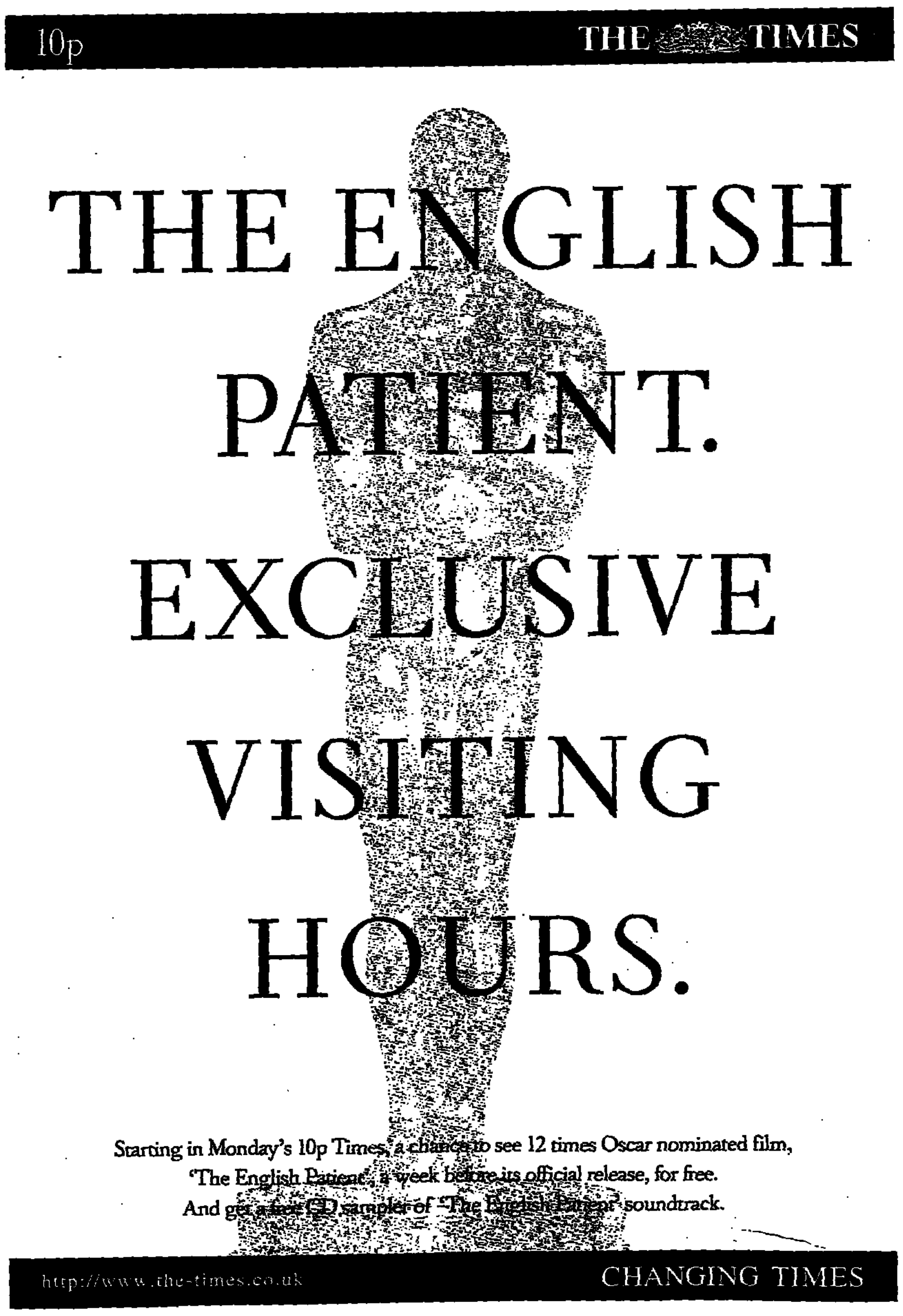
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game King — Frias, Watson, Farley and Williams, London 1990. We are only just out of the opening but White already has a way to win immediately. Can you see it?



Solution on page 42



10p THE TIMES

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هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Hooked on first taste of southern comfort

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

Either they are employing midgets as cameramen on Sky Sports, or someone is trying to tell us that football is a kiddies' game. Before Arsenal v Wimbledon at Highbury last weekend, the camera wandered around outside the ground, positioned rather confusingly at knee-height, and kept bumping into small boys in MERSON shirts, who obligingly showed off their face paint, or held up their programmes, cheering.

It's a deliberate ploy, I think. They are suggesting to us that football matches are roughly the same experience as a trip to the panto. Crowd members singled out by cameras are almost always harmless women or harmless children; and if the women are caught mouthing obscenities (as they often are), the picture promptly switches somewhere else. A cover-up, I call it. When a yob-scuffle breaks out, as it did at Filbert Street the other week, a decision is made by the BBC not to show the incident, on the grounds that it gives the perpetrators "publicity". But it's all part of air-brushing the yobs out of the story, as if they don't exist.

So, what's it like in the family enclosure of a football stadium? Well, I have to tell you, it's brilliant. A bit draughty, and a bit weird, but brilliant. Rather drained by the necessary bravado I've been showing in robust male football crowds recently, I made a policy decision last Saturday to take things easy, and slunk childless and relieved into the family enclosure at the Goldstone Ground for Brighton v Swansea City. And I instantly made a mental note never to sit anywhere else.

I think I fitted in quite well. "Seagulls!" lisped an infant behind me, from time to time. It was damn cute. "Seagulls!" I lisped, as well. The kids ate chips, which I coveted. If anyone has an infant going spare on Saturday afternoons, get in touch. I may be willing to hire one.

> 'The kids ate chips, which I coveted'

Of course, it helped that the match was a cracker, with a good attendance of more than 6,000. Things are on the up at Brighton, and the home team won 3-2, a crucial result. As any fool knows, the Albion have recently been galvanised into action by the new manager (encouragingly named Steve Gritt) and are now just one point behind Doncaster Rovers, running fast to catch up with a departing train, having previously been dumped on the platform with a pile of luggage and given a hanky to wave.

Everyone assumed it was all up for Brighton, especially when two points were deducted. But they were wrong. Seagulls! Rah-Rah! Seagulls! What a shock for Doncaster, who had settled into the last vacant seat with a sigh of relief — only to look out of the window and see the Albion outside, shouting "Wait for me!" and sprinting to catch up.

This life-or-death struggle at the tail-end of the league is easily as exciting as the contention for glory at the top. Not only is there more capacity for heroism from those-who-are-about-to-die, but — less laudably — the famous dictum by Gore Vidal applies more vividly: "It is not enough to succeed. Others must fail." Brighton have good reason to stamp on the knuckles of everybody with less than 40 points in the third division, and gleeful cheers were heard on Saturday when news of Doncaster's defeat at Northampton Town came through. For Brighton to survive, someone else must make the ultimate sacrifice. And, thanks a lot, we don't mind if you do.

Of course, I had no idea a points table could hold so much fascination until this season. During Euro 96, I remember complaining that the letters "F" and "A" at the top of a table were not explained anywhere on the page — and all my wild stabs didn't help. Now, after every match I watch on telly, I try to video the briefly-flashed new table ("Too fast, too fast!") and then study it at leisure, making notes.

Frankly, the most dismaying development in recent weeks was the decision of *Match of the Day*, the weekly BBC magazine, to go monthly, thus leaving me empty-handed on Thursday mornings. This publication's "Trainspotting" section — all the latest results and tables, beautifully laid out — was something I could pore over with my mouth open for a worrying amount of time.

Back at the Goldstone, with the points totting up, the additional good news on Saturday was that the crowd paid full attention to the match, instead of merely using the occasion to denounce the chairman, as has become the famous custom. "Archer out!" is still, understandably, a regular cry, but, from the family enclosure anyway, it was the game that mattered. Two goals for Brighton, then one for Swansea! Then another for Brighton! Then another for Swansea! It was damned exciting.

At a previous Seagulls match, chants of "Archer out!" broke out just as the lads were racing towards the goal, when "Come on!" would have been a tad more encouraging. But nowadays, perhaps, "Archer out!" is simply a given of British football. It goes without saying. Last week, the *Evening Argus* had a front-page picture of a Sherpa on Mount Everest, holding up a sign that said "Archer Out", and to be honest, it came as no surprise.

> 'I'd be there in the Softies' Enclosure'

Meanwhile, it's good to know about the family seats. It's just a shame I haven't got a family, and (despite efforts) can't pass for an under-ten. In the grand post-Taylor scheme of things, I just wish clubs had considered the full range of football-fan requirements, and instituted a Softies' Enclosure or a Namby-Pamby Bench. Having no pride whatsoever, I'd be there like a shot.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Fighting in aisles over Central Park supermarket plan

By Christopher Irvine

UNLESS a possible legal challenge is successful, Central Park, the home of Wigan since 1902, looks set to become a supermarket in a £12 million deal with the Tesco chain. Only when the doors open and trolleys glide across the acres where Billy Boston, Ellery Hanley and Martin Offiah once flew, will people quite believe it.

After this season, Wigan are looking to move to Bolton Wanderers Football Club's new ground, five miles away at Horwich, on a temporary lease. A longer-term objective is a new stadium in the town, but the upheaval has infuriated shareholders. They recently voted by a majority of seven to one for a multimillion-pound redevelopment of Central Park put forward by David Whelan, chairman of Wigan Athletic Football Club.

Whelan was returning early from a skiing holiday in Austria last night, angry that his popular proposal for the town's rugby league and football clubs to share Central Park had been overlooked by the three-man Wigan board. A £1.5 million deposit for the site had reportedly been agreed by Tesco, which is to seek outline planning permission for its development.

Whelan's proposal to buy the ground for £4 million and spend an additional £12.5 million developing it, would leave Wigan with only £700,000 working capital after clearing debts. The Tesco plan provides the club with more money for reinvestment but, in leaving Central Park, how many of their supporters might Wigan leave behind?

In exercising apparent superior voting rights as majority debenture shareholders, Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, and Tom Rathbone, another director, appear to have sanctioned the supermarket deal. Earlier this week, John Martin, the only director to back Whelan's proposal, resigned because, he said, he could "no longer stand by and watch the club slowly drain away".

Martin is seeking to discover whether he can legally challenge the board's decision. "I believe the board are ready to ignore the will of the shareholders," he said. "I think I am talking on behalf of them and fans in saying that I can't believe they want to see the world's greatest rugby league club playing in Bolton. It would be the start of a nomadic existence."

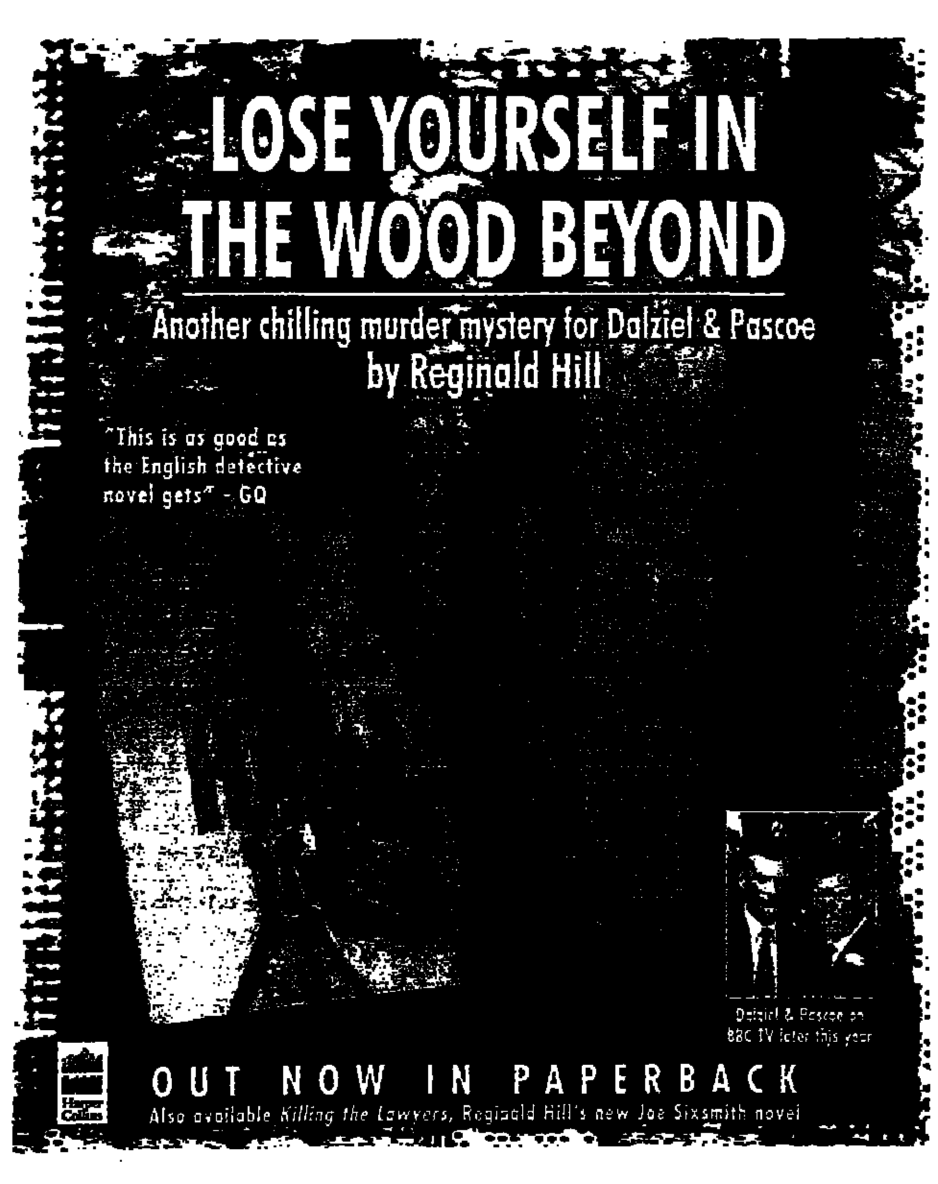
Wigan are officially maintaining that no deal has yet been done, but Robinson admitted that Tesco's offer would be difficult to refuse. "The lease offered by Mr Whelan offers us no way of generating any revenue other than through the turnstiles and Mr Whelan takes ten per cent of that," he said. "If we were to accept £4 million from him for Central Park, when it is worth £12 million, the directors would be held legally responsible."

The *Wigan Observer* was contacted yesterday by numerous supporters who were angered by the supermarket plan. Neil Barker, the newspaper's sports editor, said: "People are up in arms. It now seems that the shareholders' meeting at which the Whelan proposal was carried was a pointless exercise."

How will Tesco commemorate great feats by Wigan through nine decades? A plaque by the mange-tout, perhaps. Although less bloody than another confrontation, the proposed supermarket and depot at Wigan's town centre location is unlikely to be built without a fight. The Battle of Wigan Lane took place there 300 years ago and the area beyond the Kop is known as Bloody Mountains.

St Helens, the Super League champions and Challenge Cup-holders, are calling for the Rugby Football League to consider the introduction of a fixed penalty disciplinary system. "We understand that the Australian Super League is considering the same kind of operation," David Howes, the St Helens chief executive, said. "It is logical that the same kind of package should be available to Super League clubs world-wide."

The drama of the past three weeks, starting with the defeat at St Helens in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, is fast becoming a crisis. Va'aiga Tuigamala returned to rugby union, at Newcastle, and the highly popular Graeme West, who was dismissed as coach, painted a hapless picture of interference at board level.



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LUCA BRUNO

Henman plays a backhand return during his second-round defeat by Korda in Milan

Wily Czech fells Henman

By Our Sports Staff

TIM HENMAN had the tables turned on him by Petr Korda, whom he beat in the Australian Open, when the Great Britain No 1 was defeated 6-4, 6-4 by the Czech left-hander, in the second round of the Italian Indoor Championships in Milan yesterday.

Korda, who four years ago was ranked No 5 in the world, returned Henman's first service superbly throughout the match and invariably came out the winner on baseline rallies. What made Henman's defeat more frustrating, however, was the fact that he hit far more first services into court than his rival and also struck ten aces to Korda's six.

The wily Czech, now ranked No 29, showed outstanding anticipation when receiving, however, and though his service was not as quick as the Briton's, he dropped only 14 points in his ten service games.

Korda's opponent in the quarter-finals will be David Prinosil, who completed an unexpected 6-7, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Mark Philippoussis, of Australia. The writing was on the wall after Philippoussis lost six games in succession in the second and third sets against the world No 59.

"I played better today than I did against Michael Stich," Prinosil, who hit more aces (15-13) than his big-serving opponent during the two-hour contest, said. "In the first set of the match I did not serve so well, but I was not surprised by this victory.

"Mark is a very good player but he was only playing his third match of the season," the Czech-born German said.

Henman may lose several ranking places in the next two weeks as a result of his defeat yesterday and the fact that he is not playing in the Rotterdam tournament next week. The 22-year-old Briton has decided to take next week off, even though his absence means that he will lose a lot of points, as he successfully reached the semi-finals of the Dutch tournament last year.

Yesterday, he was under pressure from the fifth game, where he saved two break points with service winners to hang on to his delivery and lead 3-2, but that was the last time he led in the match.

Korda had four more break points in the seventh game and eventually broke through to go to 4-3 after Henman served his first double fault of the match. That one break was enough to give Korda the first set in 34 minutes and, with his confidence high, the Czech player continued to overshadow Henman.

Henman saved another break point in the third game of the second set but dropped his service for the second time in the contest to go 2-3 down. That one break again proved sufficient, though there was still some drama to come in the match.

Trailing 3-5, Henman saved a match point with his tenth ace and hung on to his service after six deuces. Then he had his first break point of the match in the subsequent game at 30-40, only for Korda to take the next three points for victory.

Answers from page *41*

TOSTON

(c) A silver coin formerly in use in various Latin American countries: in Mexico, equivalent in value to half a peso. Spanish American. *Cf. teston* and *testoon*. "The telegraph office paid us off in six hundred and some odd tostons (about like getting it all in dimes) and neither the Ward Line office nor the official Banco de Mexico would accept them."

SELECTRIC

(a) A proprietary name for a kind of electric typewriter. A portmanteau word packed together from *select* and *electric*. "If a magnetic tape selectric typewriter (MT/ST) or a key-punch is used, the sorting and page-entering processes can be eliminated."

TENORINO

(b) A high tenor. Specifically a castrato alto. The Italian diminutive of *tenore* a little tenor. "At present the signor is the pearl of tenorini, and no other artist can match his delivery of the embroidered melodies of the *Cenerentola* or the *Italiana in Algieri*."

SONGKOK

(c) A cap worn by Malays, resembling a skull-cap. The Malay word. "An affable Indonesian official with his black songkok tilted at a rakish angle above his chubby face."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qg3! wins a piece, e.g. 1 ... Qxg3 2 Nxe7+ Kh8 3 hxg3

CHOICE

Tonight: the singing sixties

Sounding the Century: Towards the Millennium. *Radio 3, 7.30pm.*

A live concert from the Festival Hall in London in which Sir Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Towards the Millennium is a theme originally put to the BBC by Rattle and the late Michael Vyner. The concerts, over the next three years and coming from Birmingham and Cardiff as well as London, explore the music of the 20th century, decade by decade. Tonight is the turn of the 1960s. The music is Henze's *The Raft of the Medusa* and Stravinsky's *Requiem Canticles*. Soloists are the soprano Juliane Banse, the mezzo-soprano Deborah Miles-Johnson and the baritone David Wilson-Johnson. The narrator is Franz Mazura.

Classic Evening Concert. *Classic FM, 8.00pm.*

All sorts of scheduling changes are expected from Classic in the next few weeks, mostly revolving around the early morning and lunchtime slots, "entry points" for new listeners. I cannot think that the *Evening Concert* will be affected by this search for extra listeners, for this is the main vehicle for Classic's prize catch from the BBC, Richard Baker. The programme (not really a concert) is an opportunity for some splendid music and today being the 150th anniversary of Rossini's death, he is the composer of two of tonight's works: the overture from *La Cenerentola*, played by the English Chamber Orchestra, and *Stabat Mater*, with the Vienna State Opera Chorus and Orchestra.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **7.00** Pete Tong: Essential Selection **10.00** One in the Jungle **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood **3.00am** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up To Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Anne Robinson **1.30pm** John Humphreys **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Chris Serle **7.00** Speaking Volumes with Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night. Live from the Maida Vale Studios in West London. Robin Boyle introduces the BBC Concert Orchestra under Robin Stapleton **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** Sheridan Morley **12.05am** Jon Briggs

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Parkinson on Sport **8.30** Friday Sport with Robin Bailey. Cricket: News from the fourth one day international between New Zealand and England; Football: Tranmere Rovers v Stoke City in Division One; Boxing: a look at Sugar Ray Leonard's comeback at the age of forty **10.00** Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Dennis Sewell **11.00** News Extra with David McNeil **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** The Missionaries **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **8.45** Soundbyte **9.05** Business **9.15** Focus on Faith **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian Books **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Science in Action **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** Soundbyte **3.30** Music Review **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.30** The New Europe **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** Insider's Guide **11.25** Book Choice **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** Seven Days **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Science in Action **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Meridian Live **4.30** Jazz Now and Then **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Brahms (Violin Concerto in D major, Op 77) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. Mozart (Sonata in D major for 2 Pianos, K448) **8.00** Evening Concert. See Choice. Rossini (La Cenerentola); Britten (Matinées Musicales); Rossini (Stabat Mater); Britten (Soirées Musicales) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Sibelius (Piano Quartet); Tchaikovsky (Piano Concerto No 3 in E Flat); Mozart (Divertimento in F, K138); Debussy (Violin Sonata); Pachelbel (Canon and Gigue in D); Beethoven (Mass in C)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Menotti (Overture Amelia al Ballo); Mozart (Flute Concerto No 1 in G, K313); Brahms (String Quintet No 2 in G, Op 111)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Piers Burton-Page. Vivaldi (Cantata Nulla in Mundo Pax Sincera, RV630); Bartok (Violin Sonata No 2); Brahms (Variations on a Theme by Paganini, Op 35); Moeran (Sinfonietta); Schubert (Der Musensohn); John Gardiner (Symphony No 1)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Koechlin

1.00pm News; Chamber Music from Manchester. Introduced by Rodney Slatford. Schubert (Adagio and Rondo Concertante in F, D487); Mendelssohn (Piano Quartet in B minor, Op 3)

2.00 Rameau. A recital of Rameau's Nouvelles Suites de Pieces de Clavecin

2.15 Music Restored. Anthony Rooley introduces the first of four concerts from the Royal Academy of Music, London. Includes a performance of Ordo Virtutum, the earliest surviving musical drama from the 12th century (r)

3.00 Mining the Archive. A programme featuring the conductor Jascha Horenstein performing the music of Mahler and Busoni with the BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra (2/2)

5.00 Music Machine. Charles Hazlewood explores the psychological effects of Muzak

5.15 In Tune, with Natalie Wheen. Includes Chopin (Fantasy-Impromptu in C sharp minor, Op 66); Tchaikovsky (Fantasy Overture Romeo and Juliet); Bridge (Phantasy in F sharp minor)

7.30 Towards the Millennium. See Choice. Live from the Festival Hall, London. Juliane Banse, soprano, Deborah Miles-Johnson, mezzo, David Wilson-Johnson, baritone, and Franz Mazura, narrator. Stravinsky (Requiem Canticles); Henze (The Raft of Medusa, part 1) **8.25** The Raft of Medusa. Why did the sinking of the French flagship *Medusa* during the Napoleonic Wars prove such an inspiration to Henze and the painter Gericault? **8.45** Concert, part 2. Henze (The Raft of Medusa, part 2)

9.50 Noises, with Stephen Connor (5/5)

10.00 Hear and Now. Andrew Sparling talks to Philip Clark and Joseph Phibbs about composing for the modern Orchestra. Includes Philip Clark (City Mosaic); Michael Finnissy (The Golden Sleep); Simon Bainbridge (Herbsttag); Andrew Glover (Fractured Vistas); Caroline Wilkins (Loquela)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Pfitzner (r)

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament

9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Another chance to hear the selections of the chef Nico Ladenis (r)

9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley

10.00 News; Messages to Myself (FM). Amanda Redman reads the personal diary of Sally Sedgman (2/5)

10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour, with Ruth Wishart

11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by Joanna Pinnock

12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker

12.25pm Food Programme, with Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 Classic Serial: The Citadel, by A.J. Cronin. Starring James Macpherson and Kelly Hunter (4/4) (r)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and guests

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow views a new exhibition of the work of the German photographer August Sander. Plus, he reviews a production, in Stratford, of Tennessee Williams's play, *Camino Real*

4.45 Short Story: Discovery, by Graham Chen. Read by David Tse

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Going Places. David Stafford reveals more ideas for things to do this weekend

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Pick of the Week. Frank Delaney presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio over the past seven days

8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Hebburn, Tyne and Wear. With Professor Lisa Jardine, Dr Alan Sked and MPs Alistair Burt and George Robertson

8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berlins. Sallie Davies explores ways of compensating the victims of doctors' and health workers' mistakes

9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. Lynne Walker talks to Sir Georg Solti as he celebrates 50 years in the recording industry (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Roger Hearing

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Railway Bazaar, by Paul Theroux. Read by William Hurt (5/10) (r)

11.00 Week Ending. A look at the week's events with Sally Grace and the comedy revue team

11.25 Tea Junction. Patrick Hannan and his guests take a sceptical look at the week's events

12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: Another Saturday Night, by Nik Cohn (2/2)

12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Auntie takes a trip — for medicinal reasons

Hey man, it's **Horizon** (BBC2). This being television and our subject being psychedelic drugs, the only real question was how long it would be before Timothy Leary popped up and advised us to "turn on, tune in and drop out". I made it 11 minutes and ... but like, who's counting? That specially impregnated page of the "scratch and trip" edition of *Radio Times* was beginning to take effect.

The makers of last night's documentary had clearly stumbled through the doors of perception some time ago. "Let's make a film about psychedelic drugs," said one with an excited groan. "Great idea, man," groaned another, "we could make the whole thing look like one giant psychedelic experience." They did — and after 50 minutes of blurred photography, slow motion and strange, stretchy special effects, I was groaning too. It was like arriving late at a party in full swing ... and remembering that you're driving.

But despite the distraction of the visual presentation, there was no obscuring the interest of the main subject. After a 30-year moratorium, psychedelic drugs such as LSD are once again being used in serious scientific research. And yes, as Bill Eagles's film showed, that sentence can be interpreted two ways. While some scientists are painstakingly studying the effects that "psychedelics" (in these circles it's cool to drop the word drugs after a while) have on the brain, others are simply taking them and using their allegedly raised levels of consciousness to become computer billionaires or win Nobel prizes.

"Yeah, I was right down there with the molecules when I discovered it," said Kary Mullis, a biochemist for whom the phrase "so laid-back he was horizontal" might have been invented. He owed it all to LSD and I didn't doubt it for a minute.

Eagles, however, had not forgotten the moral high ground altogether. A more conventional-looking scientist duly popped up to remind us of the price that Leary — and indeed the scientific community — had paid for "turning research into a party". Venture too far down that path, we were warned, and you reach madness, murder and Charles Manson. But not if you do it properly, responded those at the blurred edge of modern psychedelics research.

Much of this new research has concentrated on psychedelics derived from plants and consumed for centuries by native people of South America and Africa. These, we learnt, include ayahuasca, a hallucinogenic tea which is currently doing great things for an understandably ecstatic and undoubtedly charismatic Christian cult in Brazil; and ibogaine, which sounds like something you rub into aching joints but is actually a lot more fun.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

But for me the real revelation (apart from how tedious 1960s guitar music becomes when you're not in the mood) was what psychedelics are being used for — and indeed were used for before they were outlawed in the late 1960s. In Miami, ibogaine is being used to treat cocaine addiction, echoing work done in the late 1950s when LSD was used on heroin addicts and alcoholics. Fighting fire with fire, coals to Newcastle, busman's holiday — aphorise as you will, but the next time someone stumbles up to you in the high street asking for "20p for a tab of LSD", remember — he could be on the right track.

Back in what is nothing like the real world, BBC1 had yet another new sitcom to present us with. **A Perfect State** wore its comic origins proudly. Having been underwater at the time of the Domesday Book, Flatby, a very low-lying fishing village on the East Coast, was never officially annexed to the United Kingdom and is therefore perfectly entitled to declare itself independent. And we are perfectly entitled to say "ooh, just like *Passport to Pimlico*."

But just like so many other things, too, Richard Hope plays the umpteenth Man from the Ministry to be sent to quell rebellious natives (various *St Trinian's* films, *Love on a Branch Line*, *Gobble* — although I am reluctant to cite the latter as the comic origin of anything) and will no doubt become the umpteenth Man from the Ministry to turn native in due course. As for the enthusiastically anti-EU stance ("armies of little, chubby Hercule Poirots coming over here to tell us how to wipe the very bottoms we sit on"), the series merely takes on where *The Brittas Empire* left off.

Regardless of its derivative nature, however, there is good news. *A Perfect State* is funny and, in particular, Michael Aitkens appears to have created the near-perfect part for the considerable talents of Gwen Taylor. She plays Laura: pub landlady, Deputy Mayor and driving force in Flatby. She is bossy, interfering and the sort of intimidating flirt that makes even Rudolph Walker's Mayor quail.

Naturally enough, she also gets the best lines. Never forget there is a real world out there, she told her daughter Julie, solicitor and the village's constitutional expert, "where people are normal and civilised and don't all sleep with their first cousins." As sitcom starts go, this was definitely the right side of promising.

Finally, let us consider **Shop Till You Drop** (Channel 4), a series that promises to reveal all about supermarket culture in the 1990s. Nothing wrong with that, except that in the past 15 months BBC2 has covered exactly the same territory not just once but twice. Susan Tully can narrate away about blink rates, role distribution and why fruit and veg is a predominantly female selection zone, but as far I'm concerned it's a case of been there, done it, got the shopping trolley. Twice.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (93409)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (98867)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (8335935)

9.20 Style Challenge (1065374)

9.45 Kilroy (5330138)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (33857)

11.00 News (T) and weather (6909041)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (3973190) **WALES: 11.05** Wales Labour Conference (42506062)

11.35 Change That (5891119)

12.00 News (T) (6918867)

12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5594935)

12.30 Going for a Song (7878770)

12.55 The Weather Show (34992916)

1.00 News (T) and weather (91954)

1.30 Regional News (98826799)

1.40 Neighbours (T) (20488190)

2.05 The Gift of Love (1993) with Andy Griffith and Blair Brown. A man is given a heart transplant under conditions which destroy his family and is forced to find solace with a young runaway who gives him the will to live once more. Directed by Paul Bogart (2374454) FILM

3.30 Playdays (1297480) **3.50** The Friday Zone (3851428) **4.55** Newsround Extra (T) (3635409) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (1032190)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (596003)

6.00 News (T) and weather (515)

6.30 Newsroom South East (867)

7.00 Big Break Snooker stars Terry Griffiths, Shokat Ali and Lee Richardson cue up for the snooker game show (T) (1428)

7.30 Top of the Pops (751)

8.00 Porridge Classic comedy with Ronnie Barker (r) (T) (7848)

8.30 A Question of Sport Cyclist Chris Boardman, the captain of the Welsh rugby union XV Jonathan Humphreys, high-jumper Steve Smith and Everton footballer Gary Speed take part in the sports quiz hosted by David Coleman, with team captains John Parrott and Ally McCoist (T) (9683)

9.00 News (T) and weather (8935)

9.30 Silent Witness (1/2) When the body of a man is donated to medical research, Sam uncovers evidence to suggest his death may not have been entirely natural. With Amanda Burton (T) (478393)

10.20 The Mrs Merton Show With guests Sacha Distel and Jeremy Clarkson (T) (177312) **WALES: 10.20** The Celluloid World of Dezmond Rezillo **10.50** The Mrs Merton Show **11.20** FILM: Midnight Run **1.15** FILM: The Legacy **2.55** News

10.55 Midnight Run (1988) Robert De Niro plays a bounty hunter who engages in a battle of wits with crooked accountant Charles Grodin while struggling to bring him to justice. Directed by Martin Brest (58290225) FILM

12.50am The Legacy (1979) Americans Katharine Ross and Sam Elliott are forced to spend time in a sinister-looking English country house after crashing their car. Directed by Richard Marquand (522492) FILM

2.30 Weather (3490178)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Two Research Styles (6299393) **6.25** Looking at What Happens in Hospital (6218428) **6.50** Forecasting the Economy (5278374) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (6355480) **7.30** Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels (1261374) **7.55** The Really Wild Show (7865119) **8.20** Just So Stories (7227732) **8.35** The Record (9764751) **9.00** Daytime on Two: The French Experience (8342225) **9.15** The Biology Collection (467461) **9.45** Watch (3611935) **10.00** Children's BBC: Playdays (50119) **10.30** Hotch Potch House (4994751) **10.50** Cosmo and Dibs in Punjabi and English (2196935) **11.00** Look and Read (2985645) **11.20** Short Circuit (578587) **11.40** English Time (1263848) **12.00** English File (15461) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (42003) **1.00** Scene (99596) **1.30** Le Club (98808393) **1.45** Words and Pictures (98803848) **2.00** Just So Stories (67567026)

2.10 Sport on Friday Helen Rollason introduces action from the downhill skiing event in Nagano, Japan. Plus a preview of the weekend's five nations' championship matches (228393)

3.55 News (T) regional news (2319954) **4.00** Today's the Day (480) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (664) **5.00** Esther (9206) **5.30** Going, Going, Gone (916)

6.00 Star Trek (r) (T) (355480)

6.50 Electric Circus The latest entertainment news with Dannii Minogue (108683)

7.00 Pole to Pole The second leg of Michael Palin's epic journey takes him to Russia (r) (T) (397886)

7.50 A Week to Remember (b/w) (315206)

8.00 Birding with Bill Oddie Bill Oddie takes his binoculars to the Scottish Highlands, hoping to catch sight of some of Britain's rarest birds — ospreys, capercaillie and the golden eagle (T) (8190)

Alan Titchmarsh in the Med (8.30pm)

8.30 Gardeners' World Alan Titchmarsh strolls around the colourful terraces of the Mediterranean (T) (7225)

9.00 Red Dwarf Lister is impregnated with a virus which has the power to kill him (T) (6577)

9.30 The Two Fat Ladies Comedy Cook-In Clarissa Dickson Wright and Jennifer Paterson host BBC2's Comedy Zone (T) (62867)

10.00 Comedy Zone The Two Fat Ladies present classic hilarity as they choose their all-time favourite British sitcom (T) (16190)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (841645)

11.15 Space: Above and Beyond (819206)

12.00 Stuff the White Rabbit (93807)

12.30am The Face (1958, b/w) Bleak drama, with Max von Sydow and Ingrid Thulin. Directed by Ingmar Bergman. In Swedish with English subtitles. (859159) FILM

2.10-2.15 Weather (8624807)

CHOICE

Red Dwarf

BBC2, 9.00pm

After last week's fun with *Pride and Prejudice*, the sci-fi spoof offers a relatively orthodox episode, though in this show nothing is conventional for long. The plot is sparked by the discovery of a three-million-year-old woman, preserved in a block of ice and still alive. Followers of the recent *Horizon* series on frozen corpses may smell a parody, though the writers Paul Alexander and Doug Naylor would probably deny it. Suffice to know that the ice woman impregnates Craig Charles's Lister with an intelligent virus and desperate measures have to be taken to rid him of it. As usual the level of invention is high and the one-liners a delight. "This place is harder to get into than an airline chicken Kiev," complains Lister, as he tries to enter a wrecked starship.

Catherine Cookson's The Moth

ITV, 9.00pm

Lots of nasty people live in Cookson country, and awful things happen, but somehow there is always a warm glow of goodness to make the tales bearable. Which is perhaps why they are read, and viewed, by such large audiences. The previous adaptation, *The Wingless Bird*, pulled in 12 million viewers and there is no good reason why *The Moth*, the almost archetypal Cookson story, should not do as well. Jack Davenport is the hero, Robert, a carpenter who leaves the Jarrow shipyard to work for his uncle. It is 1913, which is why Jarrow still has a shipyard. Uncle turns out to be a Bible-bashing tyrant, who accuses Robert of getting his cousin pregnant. Forced into another move, Robert heads for a crumbling estate and a fateful encounter with two sisters. One is played by a promising newcomer, Justine Waddell, the other by the very talented Juliet Aubrey.

Silent Witness: Cease Upon the Midnight

BBC1, 9.30pm

When an Aids sufferer dies on the night of his 40th birthday, Amanda Burton's steely Dr Ryan smells a rat. And so should we, for a series with a forensic pathologist as its central character can hardly waste its time with deaths by natural causes. It has to be murder, or at the very least an assisted suicide. Get the body on the slab, let the camera linger on it and leave Dr Ryan to do her grisly best. This two-part story is by a *Casualty* writer, Jacqueline Holborough, and maintains the dour standard of a series not noted for its shafts of humour. Dr Ryan's private life contains little more joy. For one thing there is the burden of a dotty sister (Ruth McCabe), while the best she can do for a spot of romance is that old flame from many years ago, the utterly charmless Detective Superintendent Ross (Mick Ford).

The Mrs Merton Show

BBC1, 10.20pm (Scotland and Wales, 10.50pm; N.I., 11.05pm)

There is the danger that when a chat show spoof loses its bite, it becomes just another chat show. Caroline Aherne's Mrs Merton may not be there yet, but she is getting close. Perhaps she needs guests who are more easily insulted. Or perhaps the novelty of the host dressing up as a dowdy Lancashire housewife so that she can ask insulting questions is wearing off. Mrs Merton may be quick with the quips, which are often sharp and funny, but unless the guests rise to them the show is entirely lacking in substance. Sacha Distel and Jeremy Clarkson are the sofa-fodder and ten minutes after the closing credits have rolled you cannot remember a thing either of them said. Aherne would no doubt retort that this is precisely the point. The show is a vehicle for her character and the rest is incidental. **Peter Waymark**

6.00am GMTV (1979003)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1073393)

9.55 Regional News (T) (5058157)

10.00 The Time, the Place (47645)

10.30 This Morning (T) (33301916)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (6907751)

12.30 News (T) and weather (7870138)

12.55 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (7888157) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (15501480) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (4421003) **2.50** Get a Life! (5309664)

3.20 News (T) (4955729)

3.25 Regional News (T) (9800670)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (7016954) **3.40** Slim Pig (9707916) **3.50** Bugs Bunny (9736428) **4.00** Zzzap! (1092206) **4.15** Jumanji (9385393) **4.40** Gladiators. Train 2 Win (T) (3811683)

5.10 A Country Practice (7359393)

5.40 News (T) and weather (779409)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (513206)

6.25 HTV Weather (422515)

6.30 HTV News (T) (935)

7.00 Wheel of Fortune hosted by comedian Bradley Walsh (T) (6596)

7.30 Coronation Street Fraser catches Liz rifling through his private papers. Judy prepares to say a final farewell to her Mum (T) (119)

8.00 The Bill: Rolling in It A City trader blames his unemployed brother-in-law when drugs are found in his Lamborghini (T) (2916)

8.30 Holding the Baby War breaks out between Gordon and his smug neighbours over whose child is more gifted. With Nick Hancock (T) (4751)

Juliet Aubrey as Sarah (9.00pm)

9.00 Catherine Cookson's The Moth (1/3) with Jack Davenport, Juliet Aubrey and Davis Bradley (T) (9995)

10.00 News (T) and weather (10916)

10.30 HTV News and weather (232003)

10.40 In Country (1989) with Bruce Willis, Emily Lloyd and Joan Allen. Based on the acclaimed novel by Bobbie Ann Mason about a recent high-school graduate who lives in Kentucky with her uncle, a traumatised Vietnam vet, featuring a moving climax at the Vietnam memorial in Washington DC. She becomes curious about the war that killed her father, but has difficulty is stopping the past destroying the present. Directed by Norman Jewison (34392225) FILM

12.50am Funky Bunker (5395178)

1.50 Club Nation (3997772)

2.50 Shift (4042081)

3.50 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (r) (13487807)

4.20 The Big Match Replayed (r) (6116389)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (21265)

5.30 News

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (7888157)

1.50 Savannah (4421003)

2.50-3.20 Our House (5309664)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7359393)

6.25-7.00 Central News (888393)

10.40 Central Weekend Live (71328119)

12.15am Weekly World News (39028)

1.00 Funky Bunker (5762888)

1.55 Baywatch (5602197)

2.45 Cyber Cafe (5535081)

3.10 Movie Club (65069994)

3.40 Dating the Enemy (9068248)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (7888157)

1.50 High Road (20493022)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7359393)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry News (54848)

10.40 Film: Cocoon: The Return (34392225)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7888157)

1.55 Savannah (4439022)

2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (5309664)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7359393)

6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (54848)

10.40 Film: Cocoon: The Return (34392225)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7888157)

1.55 Savannah (4439022)

2.50-3.20 Dogs with Dunbar (5309664)

5.10 Shortland Street (7359393)

6.25-7.00 Anglia News (888393)

10.40 Film: Cocoon: The Return (34392225)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (86119)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (81577)

9.00 Bewitched (20393)

9.30 Ysgolion (272393)

12.00 Collectors' Lot (40157)

12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (77799)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (84664)

1.30 Australia Wild (69770)

2.00 Cynhadledd y Blaid Lafur (4206)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (848)

4.30 Shop Till You Drop (732)

5.00 5 Pump (4374)

5.30 Countdown (312)

6.00 Newyddion (137935)

6.05 Heno (524312)

6.35 Jacpot (406577)

7.00 Pobol y Cwm (634683)

7.25 Y Sioe Gelf (983732)

8.00 Penclacwydd: Mai — Mehefin (3886)

8.30 Newyddion (2393)

9.00 Exotica and Erotica of the Deep (1515)

10.00 Brookside (41886)

10.30 Here's Johnny (120664)

11.05 The Girlie Show (629515)

11.35 TFI Friday (466848)

12.40am Robin (9149604)

12.45 Flava (91081)

1.15 Film: The Burglar (968807)

2.55 Film: Nightfall (3699401)

4.20 Film: The Mob (1662178)

6.00am Sesame Street (86119) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (81577) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (20393) **9.30** Schools (272393) **12.00** Bloom (r) (T) (40157) **12.30pm** Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (77799) **1.00** Cybill (r) (T) (24116683) **1.25** Australia Wild (24191374)

1.55 Carry on Admiral (1957) Farce with David Tomlinson as a parliamentary private secretary and Brian Reece as a naval officer who switch places. Directed by Val Guest (T) (18386645) FILM

3.30 Travelling Light (T) (111) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (848) **4.30** Countdown (T) (732) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (4374) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (312)

6.00 TFI Friday With music from Kula Shaker and Beck. The guests include Ben Elton and Delia Smith (45190)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (450521)

7.55 The Press Photographer of the Year Which pictures make the front page and why (318393)

8.00 Bloom: The Mint Family (5/6) The diverse world of mint (T) (3886)

8.30 Brookside Bel makes a serious accusation against Ollie (T) (2393)

Lea Thompson is Caroline (9.00pm)

9.00 Caroline in the City: Caroline and the Watch Caroline and Richard bicker over their shared workspace (T) (1645)

9.30 Spin City: The High and Mighty Michael needs a favour from a famed New York developer. With Michael J Fox (T) (57935)

10.00 Roseanne The Connors find themselves out of their element when they accept an invitation from Astrid Wentworth to her luxury home (T) (41886)

10.30 Here's Johnny Johnny Vaughan presents a mix of chat, comedy and social studies. The guests include Max Clifford (120664)

11.05 The Girlie Show (8/12) with Patsy Palmer and Samantha Fox (629515)

11.35 TFI Friday (r) (466848)

12.40am Robin (9149604)

12.45 Flava (3/8) (91081)

1.15 The Burglar (1957) Taut film noir with Dan Duryea, Jayne Mansfield and Peter Capell. A thief plans to steal a valuable necklace with the help of his gang and his half-sister, but a corrupt policeman also has designs on the loot. Directed by Paul Wendkos (T) (968807) FILM

2.55 Nightfall (1956) Stylish thriller starring Aldo Ray, Brian Keith and Anne Bancroft. A man wrongly accused of murder goes on the run, but the real killers catch up with him. Directed by Jacques Tourneur (T) (3699401) FILM

4.20 The Mob (1951, b/w) Thriller with Broderick Crawford. A policeman poses as a corrupt dock worker in order to expose the Mob's underworld activities. Directed by Robert Parrish (204913) FILM

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (695515) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (56480) **10.00** Another World (48886) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (28022) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (11670) **1.00pm** Geraldo (87190) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (84190) **3.00** Jenny Jones (94916) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (89521) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (5645) **6.00** Real TV (1935) **6.30** Married — with Children (5515) **7.00** The Simpsons (6374) **7.30** M*A*S*H (1799) **8.00** JAG (26003) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (46867) **10.00** High Incident (49954) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (49515) **12.00** LAPD (33449) **12.30am** Lucy Show (15410) **1.00** Hit Mix (15410)

SKY 2

7.00pm Beverly Hills 90210 (5209428) **8.00** Melrose Place (5285848) **9.00** Pacific Drive (5298312) **10.00** Tales from the Crypt (5249954) **10.30** Tales from the Crypt (5225374) **11.00** Late Show (5587596) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (5587596)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Between Love and Honour (1994) (87596) **8.00 Hercules (1983)** (71570) **10.00 MacShayne: Final Roll of the Dice (1993)** (93751) **12.00 Lost in Yonkers (1993)** (98393) **2.00pm The Devil's Brigade (1968)** (85962461) **4.15 Going Under (1990)** (78002461) **6.00 Only You (1994)** (43770) **8.00 Deceived by Trust (1995)** (55515) **10.00 Top Dog (1994)** (357312) **11.35 Clerks (1994)** (306409) **1.10am Mad Dogs and Englishmen (1995)** (694468) **2.45 Betrayed (1988)** (694468)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

5.40am When Willie Comes Marching Home (1950) (2458577) **8.05 Three Little Ninjas and the Lost Treasure (1990)** (75102225) **10.00 Alexander's Ragtime Band (1938)** (91393) **12.00 The Roots of Heaven (1958)** (60506732) **2.10pm Romantic Undertaking (1995)** (585190) **4.00 Three Little Ninjas and the Lost Treasure (1990)** (8119) **6.00 Thumbelina (1994)** (71799) **7.30** UK Top 10 (4409) **8.00 Fluke (1995)** (53157) **10.00 Indictment (1995)** (70811374) **12.15am The Prophecy (1994)** (517536) **1.55 State of Emergency (1994)** (517536) **3.25 Not Like Us (1995)** (517536)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Road to Hong Kong (1962) (8975374) **8.00 Smokey and the Bandit III (1983)** (8987119) **10.00 The Krays (1989)** (44744645) **12.05am Heartburn (1986)** (44744645) **1.55 Only Angels Have Wings (1939)** (44744645) **3.55-5.50 The Corsican Brothers (1941)** (44744645)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as follows: **9.00pm The Wizard of Oz (1939)** (28384664) **11.00 The Dirty Dozen (1967)** (87455480) **1.40am Village of the Damned (1960)** (87455480) **3.05-5.00 The Trollenberg Terror (1958)** (87455480)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.

6.00am Mouse Tracks (9730206) **6.25** Quack Attack (9742041) **6.50** Bonkers (3191954) **7.15** Little Mermaid (8390138) **7.40** Aladdin (1304428) **8.05** Quack Pack (7420799) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (6774003) **8.40** Care Bears (4057954) **9.10** Grounding Marsh (5488041) **9.40** Big Garage (4380461) **9.55** Lamb Chop (4424886) **10.25** Muppet Babies (6328428) **10.50** Dumbo's Circus (5234785) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (9509138) **11.50** Under the Umbrella Tree (4410041) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (2915119) **12.35** Little Mermaid (4430190) **1.00** Flipper (9008428) **1.45** Aladdin (67965770) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (77789915) **2.35** Bonkers (1697119) **3.00** Quack Attack (9454022) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (2301480) **3.35** Goof Troop (1516157) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (7509916) **4.10** Goof Troop (2338119) **4.35** Bonkers (9135461) **5.00** Aladdin (6082461) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (6844374) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (497393) **6.00** Sky Trackers (9935) **6.30 FILM: Taking Liberty** (10138) **8.00 FILM: Robin of Locksley** (28157) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (49577)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (7133577) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (9576157) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (5558848) **7.30** Power Rangers (5560683) **8.00** Masked Rider (5245138) **8.30** Crocadoo (5244409) **9.00** Rimba's Island (1687916) **9.25** Why Why Family (9206461) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (1624206) **9.45** Why Why Family (1512461) **10.00** Rimba's Island (4838111) **10.25** Why Why Family (7732577) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (21154409) **10.55** Why Why Family (16275634) **11.00** Princess Starla (4737480) **11.30** Pinocchio (4745409) **12.00** Billy the Cat (5248225) **12.30pm** Princess Starla (9517138) **1.00** Pinocchio (5557119) **1.30** Billy the Cat (9516409) **2.00** Three Little Ghosts (5738138) **2.30** Inspector Gadget (3825041) **3.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (5717645) **3.30** Ace Ventura (3837886) **4.00** Casper (3816393) **4.30** Power Rangers (3812577) **5.00** Masked Rider (5712190) **5.30** Spiderman (3826157) **6.00** Goosebumps (3826770) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (3817022)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (78041) **7.30** Beach Volleyball (97732) **8.30** Racing News (65003) **9.00** Sports Centre (89683) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (92645) **10.00** Golf: Dubai Classic — Live (936374) **1.00pm** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (77312) **1.30** Tight Lines (90916) **2.30** Spanish Football (69374) **4.30** Triathlon (71428) **5.29** Sports Centre (8957770) **5.30** Netbusters (8596) **6.00** Sports Centre (26080) **7.00** Trans World Sport (89967) **8.00** Hold the Back Page (97515) **9.00-5.30am** Cricket: One Day — Live (7070157)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Rugby Club (1046480) **9.00** Power Week (1033916) **10.00** Wrestling (1036003) **11.00** Rugby Club (9207521) **12.00-1.00am** Hold the Back Page (9207521)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Cricket: South Africa v Australia — Live (91506206) **3.00pm** Beach Volleyball (66433409) **3.30** World Sport (21810190) **4.00** Golf: Nissan Open (86437225) **6.00** Golf: Dubai Classic (54474954) **9.00** Golf: Nissan Open — Live (28386022) **11.00-12.00** Sports Centre (28233206)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Cross-Country Skiing: Finlandia Hiihto (22428) **8.30** Skiing: Women's World Cup Downhill (65867) **9.30** Nordic Skiing World Championship — Live (61515) **11.30** Skiing: Women's World Cup Downhill (56770) **12.00** Freestyle Skiing World Cup (26044) **1.00pm** Tennis: Milan Indoor (6160022) **5.00** Ski Special (8515) **6.00** Nordic Skiing (88003) **7.30** Tennis: Milan Indoor Tournament — Live (40022) **9.00** Equestrianism (43206) **10.30** Boxing: Bobby Harris v Jeff Wooden (46732) **11.30-12.30am** IndyCar (77157)

Martin and Gary Kemp in *The Krays* (Sky Movies Gold, 10.00pm)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Krypton Factor (4726698) **6.30** Tickle on the Tum (80418312) **6.45** Magic Ball (41253190) **7.00** Allsorts (7623374) **7.15** Tickle on the Tum (4684138) **7.30** Catweazle (3674119) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (2372935) **8.30** Families (2371206) **9.00** The Professionals (8421206) **10.00** Grumbleweeds (8365206) **10.30** Cuckoo Waltz (2384770) **11.00** Within These Walls (3683867) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (2375022) **12.30pm** Families (1715175) **1.00** Albion Market (3887683) **1.30** Krypton Factor (2165616) **2.00** A Piece of Cake (8366935) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (2717225) **4.00** Doctor Series: In Charge 2 (6872428) **4.30** Grumbleweeds (6861312) **5.00** The Professionals (3558393) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (6859577) **6.30** Families (6873157) **7.00** Doctor Series: In Charge 2 (3559022) **7.30** Cuckoo Waltz (6862041) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (1657664) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (5360886) **9.35** Good Life Guide (4771138) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (1670515)

From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From **6.00am-9.00** TV High Street

From **9.00-12.00** Food and Wine

From **12.00-3.00pm** Health and Beauty

From **3.00-6.00** Home and Garden

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Ava Gardner (3484683) **5.00** History Alive (4220596) **6.00** Our Century (3966157) **7.00-8.00** Biography: David and Goliath (1037732)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Twilight Zone (5168409) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (5168409) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (5168409) **2.30** Rod Serling's Night Gallery (5168409) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (5168409)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2601886) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (8351521) **10.00** Surprise Chefs (7735683) **10.30** Our House (2690770) **11.00** Painted House (7892003) **11.30** This Old House (7893732) **12.00** Versatile Vegetables (2681022) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (8256157) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (1224645) **1.30** Home Again (9606698) **2.00** Hometime (5504206) **2.30** Furniture to Go (2415138) **3.00** Two's Country (5516041) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (2410683)

DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.

4.00pm Fishing Adventures II (2499190) **4.30** Bush Tucker Man (2495374) **5.00** Connections 2 (5528886) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (2419954) **6.00** Wild Things (3301206) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (5508022) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (2496003) **8.00** Jurassica II (8924585) **9.00** Justice Files (4524729) **10.00** Battle for the Skies (1374206) **11.00** Best of British (1234022) **12.00** Codebreakers (1234022) **1.00am** Roadshow (1234022) **1.30-2.00** World of Adventures (1234022)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (7571138) **7.35** Neighbours (3145683) **8.00** Crossroads (9291596) **8.25** EastEnders (1382062) **9.00** The Bill (2670916) **9.30** Bread (9273989) **10.00** Never the Twain (7737041) **10.30** The Sullivans (2609428) **11.00** The Rockford Files (1255515) **12.00** Crossroads (2683480) **12.30pm** Neighbours (8456175) **1.00** EastEnders (9674312) **1.35** The Two Ronnies (5788577) **2.30** For the Love of Ada (2417596) **3.00** Goldmaster (6525799) **3.30** The Bill (2412041) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (7818041) **5.00** Bob's Full House (5956138) **5.40** Crossroads (6689461) **6.05** EastEnders (3850225) **6.40** Generation Game (61362041) **7.50** Are You Being Served? (6815645) **8.30** Russ Abbot (5505935) **9.00** The Bill (7814225) **9.30** The Chief (9077002) **10.35** Best of Top of the Pops (3807461) **11.20 FILM: Plan of Attack** (7744770) **12.55am FILM: Quest for Love** (5811517) **2.30** Shopping (2868913)

TCC

6.00am Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (21732) **6.30** Ocean Odyssey (42751) **7.00** Escape from Jupiter (80409) **7.30** Flash Gordon (69916) **8.00** Batman (35886) **8.30** Dennis the Menace (34157) **9.00** Earthworm Jim (25409) **9.30** Bobby's World (61799) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (33003) **10.30** Iznogoud (14393) **11.00** Danger Mouse (43729) **11.30** Gravedale High (93288) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (94995) **12.30pm** Art Attack (65515) **1.00** Ann of Green Gables (53770) **2.00** Ocean Odyssey (9886) **2.30** Escape from Jupiter (4480) **3.00** Batman (8393) **3.30** Flash Gordon (6225) **4.00** Earthworm Jim (5732) **4.30-5.00** Dennis the Menace (1916)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (90848) **6.30** Count Duckula (45225) **7.00** Rocko's Modern Life (6597799) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (7004461) **7.30** Rugrats (55190) **8.00** Doug (64374) **8.30** Arthur (63645) **9.00** Children's BBC (87225) **9.30** Children's BBC (23515) **10.00** Wimzie's House (36577) **10.30** Babar (83409) **11.00** Magic School Bus (68515) **11.30** Henry's Cat/Wil Cwac Cwac/Lizzie's Library/Topsey and Tim/Jimbo (36916) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (67461) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (94003) **1.00** Children's BBC (75954) **1.30** Children's BBC (93374) **2.00** Wubbulous World of Dr Seuss (8374) **2.30** Kissyfur (6022) **3.00** Wishbone (7409) **3.30** Stickin' Around (8867) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (7374) **4.30** Rugrats (6886) **5.00** Sister Sister (2954) **5.30** Moesha (7138) **6.00** Press Gang (7751) **6.30-7.00** Doug (8003)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (2190) **7.30** Roseanne (7515) **8.00** Roseanne (8138) **8.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (7645) **9.00** Cheers (48751) **9.30** Taxi (14867) **10.00** Garry Shandling (68190) **10.30** Frasier (84138) **11.00** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (50696) **11.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (25461) **12.00** The Critic (62975) **12.30am** Soap (56826) **1.00** Cheers (12642) **1.30** Taxi (28791) **2.00** Entertainment UK (64178) **2.30** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (76913) **3.00** Frasier (99438) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (67265)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (8829931) **9.00** The New Twilight Zone (7809393) **9.30** The New Twilight Zone (4751747) **10.00** Tour of Duty (1279652) **11.00 FILM: Bloodstained Shadow** (4364206) **1.00am** Robocop (4364206) **2.00** Tour of Duty (4364206) **3.00 FILM: Bloodstained Shadow** (4364206) **5.00** The New Twilight Zone (4364206) **5.30** The New Twilight Zone (4364206)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (8748664) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (1336206) **9.15** The Gordon Elliott Show (8077848) **10.05** Jerry Springer Uncut (3700461) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (5827596) **11.50** The New Mr and Mrs Show (2537041) **12.25pm** Why Me? Real Life Case Studies (54586867) **12.55** Tempest (1795935) **1.40** Rolonda (9258022) **2.30** The Agony Experience (4043480) **3.00** Live at Three (64327480) **4.05** The Jerry Springer Show (9031585) **5.05** Lingo (66860577) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4054596) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (8432935) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (1433732) **7.05** Infatuation UK (1500393) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (2919751) **8.05** Rolonda (4895312) **9.00 FILM: Necessity** (6977732) **11.00-12.00** Sex Lie Down Under (8391503)

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Prize Time (6547461) **5.05** Blockbusters (1935428) **5.35** Prize Time (592312) **5.50** Spellbound (405312) **6.20** Prize Time (438729) **6.30** Catchphrase (395022) **6.55** Prize Time (921596) **7.05** Sale of the Century (439190) **7.30** Prize Time (944867) **7.40** Gives Us a Clue (240393) **8.10** Prize Time (195664) **8.20** All Clued Up (382003) **8.50** Prize Time (108664) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (656886) **9.25** Prize Time (403193) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (541515) **10.00** Prize Time (122799) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (411652) **11.05** Prize Time (567670) **11.20** Love at First Sight (858190) **11.45** Prize Time (921770) **12.00** Sale of the Century (17449) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (79536) **1.30** Lou Grant (94081) **2.30** Snowy River — the McGregor Saga (57623) **3.30** All Together Now (36979) **4.00-5.00** Fall Guy (11248)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** News **8.00** Gaane Anjaane **8.30** Shri Krishna **9.00** Punjabi Folk **9.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **10.00** Teri Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup **10.30** Kehkashan **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Hasratain **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Sauda **1.00** Bengali Movie **4.00** Kamal Kombination **4.30** Saanp Seedi **5.00** Zee Zone **5.30** Young Buzz **6.00** Kya Scene Hai **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** BBCD **7.30** Aahat **8.00** News **8.30** Parampara **9.05-12.00 FILM: Khuddar**

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts.

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

هكذا من الاصل

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ATHLETICS 40
Father and son
thrown together
by common pursuit

SPORT

CRICKET 41
Australia ready
to stay on
top of world

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28 1997

Pearce given managerial support

Bassett leaves Palace to help Forest revival

By David Maddock

IT IS a week for pulling managerial rabbits out of hats. Following hard on the heels of Blackburn Rovers' surprise appointment of Roy Hodgson came the even more startling news, yesterday, that Dave Bassett is to leave Crystal Palace to become the general manager of Nottingham Forest.

The speed of the appointment is an indication that Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, who is part of a consortium that purchased Forest this week, immediately recognised the need for an experienced head to help to steer Stuart Pearce, the player-manager, through the murky waters of football in the FA Carling Premiership.

Scholar confirmed last night that Bassett will not initially be involved in team affairs, leaving the way clear for Pearce to continue in his present role until the end of the season. However, the strong suggestion is that Bassett will assume control when Pearce's temporary contract as player-manager expires in the summer. The former Wimbledon and Sheffield United manager is hardly the type to be content with an administrative position and is likely to assume full control, with Pearce perhaps retained as player-coach.

The Bridgeford consortium that took a controlling interest in the club promised £16 million to spend immediately on new players and it is Pearce's lack of experience and knowledge in this area that prompted the move for Bassett. He will immediately be given the decisive influence on transfer matters and be charged with finding the players to ensure the club's Premiership survival. He has, in effect, been brought in to buy players.

When he discussed the move yesterday, Bassett hinted strongly that he will assume a wider role when Pearce's temporary contract expires: "Stuart will still select the team and conduct the coaching until the end of the season, because he has a contract until then and he wants to do that. I won't step on his toes.

"He is happy for me to come in and I wouldn't have done so if he wasn't. We've known each other for some time, although not very well. He knows he needs somebody with experience and I'll be doing my best to help."

Bassett's move comes as a surprise not only for its speed and nature, but because he turned down a move to Manchester City only recently. At the time, he said that he found the future of Crystal Palace exciting; four months on, it appears that certain differences with the Palace chairman, Ron Noades, and family demands have forced his hand.

Bassett's wife and children still live in Sheffield and the move to Nottingham will allow him to spend more time at home. Palace wanted Bassett to stay, but he invoked a clause in his contract.

"I insisted on having a clause inserted that said I could leave if a club came in offering compensation and Ron was as good as his word," Bassett said. "I'm pleased to have left in amicable circumstances, because this is the correct decision for me in terms of my career, financially and also domestically."

Ray Houghton, the Ireland midfield player, is the favourite to become player-coach at Palace with Steve Coppell assuming, once again, the position of general manager. Coppell returned to the club for his third spell after resigning as manager of Manchester City earlier this season, citing health reasons. He is expected to play a mainly administrative role at the club.

Bassett has signed a three-year contract and Scholar hopes his experience, especially in the transfer market, will continue the improvement that Pearce began when he took temporary charge from Frank Clark, who resigned as manager in January. Bassett can at least work from a position of strength, not simply because he has £16 million to spend.

The prospect of playing for Forest, despite their struggles at the lower end of the Premiership, seems to be as strong as ever, if the attitude of Pierre van Hooijdonk is anything to go by. Rob Jansen, the Celtic and Holland striker's agent, said yesterday that Van Hooijdonk was eager to move to the City Ground.

"Celtic were ready to sell him recently and have discussions with some clubs in England," Jansen said. "If that situation is still the same, then it would be a possibility that he would come to Forest. He would like to stay in Great Britain."

Bassett: expertise

FACTFILE

1944: Born September 4, Wembley.
1973: Captained Walton & Hersham to victory in Amateur Cup final against Slough Town.
1974: Joined Wimbledon, who were then in the Southern League.
1977: Made 35 appearances during first season as Football League club.
1981-86: Succeeded Dario Gradi as manager and took Wimbledon from old third division into the first.
1988: Became manager of Watford, but left shortly afterwards to take over at Sheffield United. United relegated to third division.
1989-90: Won promotion back to the second division, then to first.
1994: United relegated from Premier League on final day of season.
1995: Resigned as United manager.
1996: Appointed as manager of Crystal Palace.
1997: Appointed general manager of Nottingham Forest

Olazábal plays his second shot to the 1st in his encouraging comeback round of 69 yesterday. Photograph: David Cannon / Allsport

Olazabal quick to get back in the swing

From John Hopkins
Golf Correspondent
in Dubai

IT WAS just after midday on another day of clear blue skies and bright sunshine when José Maria Olazábal made his way to the 1st tee at the Emirates Golf Club, in Dubai, yesterday to compete in his first competitive round of golf for 17 months.

As Sergio Gomez, his manager, and Maite, his wife, walked behind, Gomez pulled a cigar from the pocket of his shirt and plucked at the paper encircling it. "This is really an occasion," the man who has supported Olazábal, the 1994 Masters champion, through good times and bad, said. "Once the first drive is away, I shall light this Havana."

There was more to celebrate after Olazábal's 69, four strokes behind Domingo Hospital and Colin Montgomerie, the defending champion, who are the first-round leaders of the Dubai Desert Classic. To play as well as Olazábal did — he lies equal fourteenth — after what he has been through is most encouraging for his future and for that of European golf.

It was an afternoon of low scoring. Montgomerie, Bernhard Langer and Padraig Harrington were collectively 19 under par, with 19 birdies and one eagle between them. For Olazábal, a level-par 72 would have been a decent score and Montgomerie was loud in his praise. "For him to break 70 on a good golf course is tremendous," Montgomerie said. "That should give him confidence."

Further indication of what Olazábal achieved can be gauged from the comments of Greg Norman, who went round in 71 and described himself as "happy, it being my first competitive round for three months".

First-round scores 40

From the top of his head to the tips of his shoes, Olazábal was recognisably the Olazábal of old, except that he wore a peaked cap that looked one size too big. His walk has always appeared slightly drunken in the way he sways from side to side, and he has always leant forward as if heading into a strong wind. That remained the same. When he, Jamie Spence and Barry Lane had to wait to play their second shots to the 10th, Olazábal took the opportunity to sit on the end of his bag.

His striking appears to have lost little of its sharpness. After pars at the first two holes, he demonstrated the skills for which he was famous before suspected rheumatoid arthritis in his right foot and a back injury caused him to stop playing competitively in September 1995.

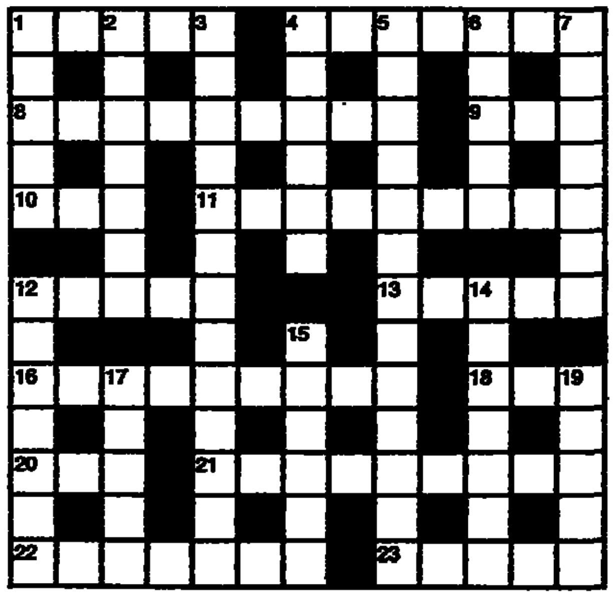
A wild drive on the 3rd ended in a bush. Olazábal dropped out under penalty and hacked back to the fairway. He was still 180 yards away but his six-iron was struck with such accuracy that it clanged into the pin. He finished closer to the flag from 180 yards than his partners did from 20.

Fog delayed the start for 75 minutes and, as Olazábal was behind a group containing Langer, progress was slow. Yet, when Olazábal, who was 31 earlier this month, might have begun to fade because of tiredness, he played better.

He birdied three of his last four holes, sinking putts of 30 feet on the 15th, 18 feet on the 16th and playing the last hole conservatively and skilfully. As darkness gathered, he hit a wedge from 90 yards to three feet for his fourth birdie of a momentous day.

He would not reveal whether his feet were hurting at the end. Suffice to say that, for the moment, Olazábal has to take his recovery one step at a time.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1029

ACROSS
1 Impose (the unwanted on) (5)
4 Waterfall (7)
8 Untouchable (9)
9 Lubricate (3)
10 Hair-preparation: a semi-solid (3)
11 An explosive; a Plot (9)
12 Fold, tuck (in garment) (5)
13 Touch of colour (5)
16 Get too big, old for (4,3,2)
18 Synagogue cupboard; place of shelter (3)
20 Our star (3)
21 Lifeless (9)
22 Performer of operations (7)
23 Precise (5)

DOWN
1 Hurt: dance: love affair (5)
2 Include; implicate (7)
3 1984 orthodoxy enforcers *(Orwell)* (7,6)
4 Chink (6)
5 Fail to conform (4,3,2,4)
6 Keep away from (5)
7 Make bigger (7)
12 Myth. winged horse (7)
14 US/Canada 4 *ac* (7)
15 Melody; exert severely (6)
17 Possessor (5)
19 Got down (eg to pray) (5)

The solution to 1028 will be published Wednesday, March 5

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Premier League looks to Leaver

By Brian Glanville

THE new chief executive of the FA Premier League is to be a barrister, Peter Leaver QC, who will assume his duties on April 3. Rick Parry, the present incumbent, will be "working alongside him for a suitable period". Parry said yesterday that, by the time Leaver takes office, the so-called "bungs inquiry" and report into financial malpractices by football clubs in the transfer market, will be done and dusted.

On the face of it, contrasts between Parry and his successor could scarcely be greater. Parry, the provincial accountant; Leaver, the metropolitan lawyer.

Leaver: barrister

Leaver, 52, has been supporting Tottenham Hotspur since his father took him to a game against Blackburn Rovers in 1950. He has been chairman of the Bar Committee, chairman of the International Practice Committee, Recorder of the Crown Court and a Deputy High Court judge — not to mention a Tottenham director between 1982 and 1984, during the interregnum that followed the contentious chairmanship of Irving Scholar. Most encouraging of all, perhaps, Leaver gives up his Sunday mornings to referee minor football, though he says he finds it hard to keep up with the play.

Sir John Quinton, the FA Premier League chairman, said yesterday that Leaver has been engaged on the basis of a "rolling contract", though he would not divulge the salary. Quinton heaped praise on Parry, who, in his five years of office, has kept harmony among the 20 FA Carling Premiership clubs, but who now has agreed to take a job nearer his home, at Anfield with Liverpool FC.

Leaver would not commit himself to any plan or project. He said he first wanted to take up his position and assess situations, though he is anxious to keep things on an even keel.

This may not be easy. There is the problem of the Bosman decision and the presumption that football contracts are in restraint of trade. Not mentioned was the urging of Uefa, the European governing body, that all senior leagues, including the Premiership, be cut down to 18 clubs. There is also the issue of the dreadful plight of many smaller clubs and the distortion to the fixture list created by television.

"Obviously," Leaver said, "you see things which you think should be changed. It would be ludicrous if you didn't. My experience at the Bar has taught me not to try to come to firm conclusions until I know precisely what all the issues are."

Ashton handed brief by Ireland

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE remarkable transition in the fortunes of Brian Ashton culminated yesterday in an unprecedented six-year appointment as coach to Ireland. Two months ago, Ashton was in dispute with Bath and subsequently resigned after three successful years as coach to the English champions; now he has security of tenure until 2003, the period covering the next two World Cups.

Sporting security, of course, is subject to success on the field, but Ashton, 50 and a history teacher up to last July, could not have asked for more than appeared in the Irish Rugby Football Union's (IRFU) statement made in Dublin before Ireland left for tomorrow's five nations' championship meeting with Scotland.

Ashton himself has expressed doubts whether Ireland's standing can be improved without this kind of long-term commitment, which will involve working with provincial directors of rugby and advising on the A and under-21 teams.

"We have tremendous faith in Brian's ability and commitment and recognise that we are at a critical juncture in our efforts to maintain Ireland at the top level," Eddie Coleman, the chairman of the IRFU elections committee, said.

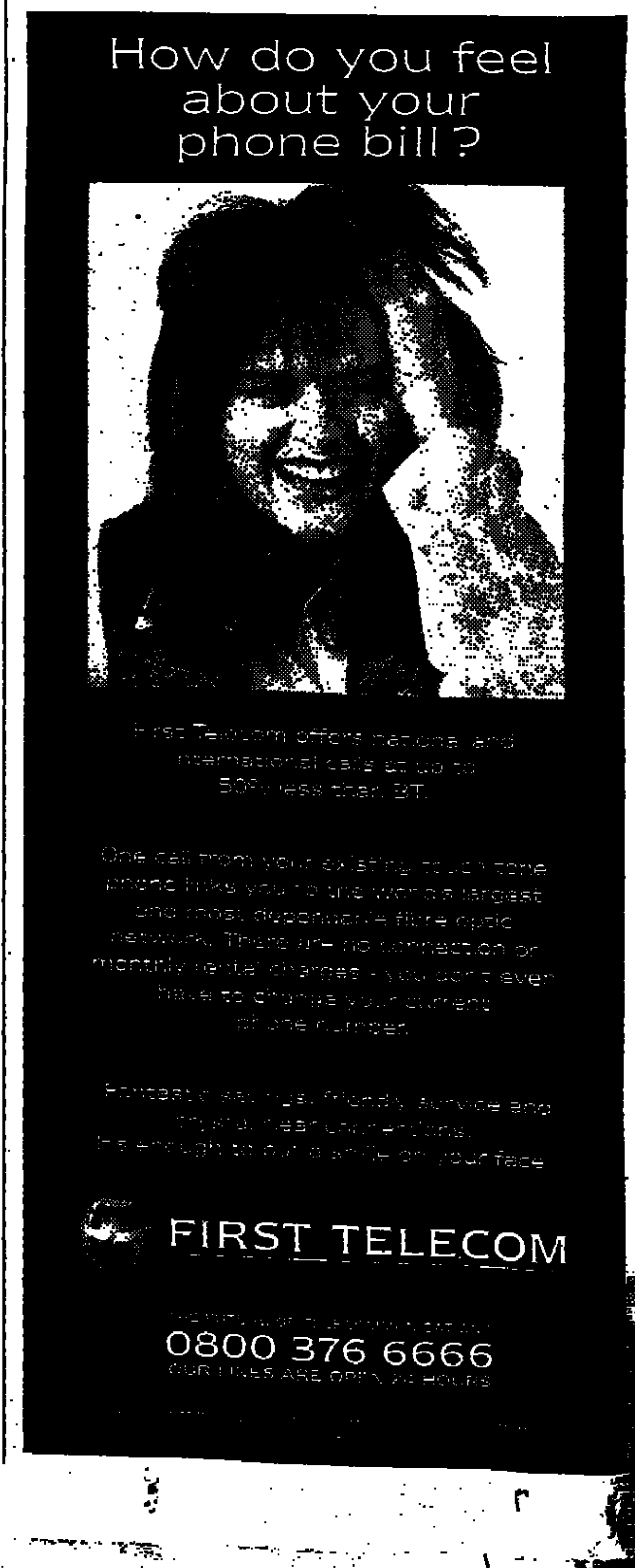
Ashton, who will take up his new role on April 1, will go on the development tour of New Zealand and Western Samoa in May and will be part of a three-man selection committee along with Pat Whelan, the honorary manager up to the 1999 World Cup, and a third selector yet to be named. The reduction of the selectors from five to three is in line with what most other leading unions have already done.

Political warfare in English rugby seems imminent yet again. Agreement between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading clubs may be one thing; agreement within the RFU itself remains quite another and some heavy guns have been rolled out in advance of the special general meeting, called in Birmingham by the Union for March 9.

Every club affiliated to the RFU has been circulated with a letter signed by Fran Cotton, the manager of the British Isles, Danie Serfontein, the RFU president in 1992-93, and Jeff Probyn, a national member of the RFU committee. The letter is designed to ensure that the chairman of the union's new management board — the equivalent to Cliff Brittle, the present chairman of the executive committee — is elected by the membership and not from within the committee, and that the post of chief executive should be subject to a rigorous selection process.

Courting trouble 1
Rob Andrew 40
True professional 40

Richard Hill, the Saracens flanker, will be in the England team to play France at Twickenham tomorrow. Although Hill is not yet at 100 per cent fitness, he did enough in a private training session to convince the team management that his injured ankle will allow him to take the field.



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